The mission of the Humanities Research Center (HRC) is to foster scholarly research and intellectual community in the humanities, broadly understood, to facilitate scholarly work between the School of Humanities and other areas of Rice University, and to lead institutional change by partnering with other foundations, centers, research institutions, and universities. The HRC strives to bring a dynamic element to research and teaching by developing “intellectual liquidity” within and between humanities and the sciences, information and communications technologies, and the professions.

Each year, in addition to its orientation toward faculty development, the HRC administers the Andrew W. Mellon seminars. The two-semester seminars promote research at the highest level between faculty and doctoral students. Starting with a core of well-developed research by the seminar leader, the seminars invite students from across the humanities to become fellow researchers and collaborators. The seminars support innovative graduate-level training and research in the humanities and social sciences.

See HURC in the Courses of Instruction Section.