

Honors Project Overview and Checklist

- SLO (1) *Scholarship*: Student will conduct academic research or produce creative products at an exemplary level in their field.
- SLO (2) *Communication*: Student will communicate their ideas results in a fluent oral and written manner to professionals in their areas of expertise.
- SLO (3) *Holistic Understanding*: Student will demonstrate an awareness of how scientific, humanities, and artistic perspectives work together to provide a deeper understanding of questions or issues.

Honors Projects will reflect a sustained engagement with research, a creative endeavor, or application of an idea. The goal of this project is to produce work consistent with a first-year master's level student or a young professional in the field. Typically, the honors project will begin in one semester and then get completed the following semester. Some students have completed their honors project over the summer while enrolling in six hours of honors credit over the summer and completing a REU or similar research experience. You need to plan on meeting with your directing faculty member on a regular basis, probably every two to three weeks throughout the year. Students are expected to take notes at each meeting with faculty and leave each meeting with a "to do" list on their project. It is strongly recommended that you set up a schedule with your faculty for the year early on in the process with specific due dates. If students need to change faculty members, please discuss this with the honors director before making a change.

Academic Integrity - If part of the research and writing for your honors project will also satisfy the requirements of another course, such as Senior Seminar, please notify and get the permission of that instructor. While it is common and expected that honors students may use departmental courses to satisfy honors requirements, it is also consistent with Drury's expectations for academic integrity that the course faculty be aware of this dual purpose and to make sure that students are acting with the utmost integrity.

Creative Projects - Students planning on a creative project should focus on quality—not quantity—as the touchstone of their work. Honors projects should differentiate themselves based on their revision and polish, allowing for considerable reflection. A typical honors project in writing, for example, would produce 20-25 pages maximum of highly polished prose.

Before the Honors Project Officially Begins

Topic and Faculty Identification - Honors students should meet with the Honors Director the semester before they expect to begin the honors project to discuss potential topic ideas, potential supervising faculty, and the courses or independent research classes in which they will be completing their honors project. **All projects must have directing faculty member and a consulting member. The directing faculty member will be the primary faculty you will work with and will keep track of your progress for the Honors Program. The consulting member will offer feedback only on the proposal, literature review, and rough draft.** The Honors Program has a policy that faculty can serve only on two honors projects a year, unless the faculty member gets approval from the Honors Director to serve on more than two.

Semester One

Written Proposal - The proposal (2-4 pages) will explain the question you seek to examine, your hypothesis, description the kind of sources you will be examining or the kinds of experiments you will be running, and the procedure or methodology you will use for your research. It can include a list of books or articles that you hope to examine over the course of your research. Remember that this is a plan and you should be offering a fairly compelling road map for your senior project journey. **Your proposal is due in mid-September (fall semester) or Mid February (spring semester) during the first semester of your honors project.**

Proposal Discussion- The proposal discussion is a short conversation about your honors proposal and project with three or more honors faculty. Typically, the conversation begins with the honors student offering a brief overview (5 minutes) of the topic and its significance and then the honors faculty will ask several questions (10 minutes), exploring ways that the student can think about, expand, or elaborate on their project. Contact the Honors Director to schedule your proposal defense.

Literature Review or Annotated Bibliography - In consultation with their supervising faculty, honors students will decide to complete either a literature review or an annotated bibliography for their project. Students will select the option that best fits with the disciplinary methods of their field and best prepares them for the final written paper. No matter which option a student chooses, this paper will reflect a semester's worth of reading and analysis (typically a student should have at least 30 articles or their equivalents by the end of the first semester, and another 50% more sources by the final version) and needs to be submitted a few weeks before the end of the first semester to both faculty.

IRB Approval (if necessary) - If your project involves doing research on human subjects, then its research methods must be approved by the IRB. Students need to plan on getting approval by the end of the first semester of their project. This will allow students to begin collecting data as soon as the second semester starts.

Find a Conference– Work with your faculty or the Honors Director to find a conference where you can present your work. Some conferences will have early dates for submitting an abstract or paper. Be sure to schedule the timeline of your project so that you can present before the end of the school year.

Second Semester

Data Collection (if necessary) - Start collecting your data once you have received IRB approval.

Outline - With the first few weeks of the semester, submit a detailed written outline (3-5 pages) that provides an overview of the major sections and subsections of your paper. Share this outline with your directing faculty.

Rough Draft – Submit a rough draft to your directing and supervising faculty seven weeks before the end of the semester.

Final Draft and Signed Copy – Submit your final draft (15-20 pages for science projects, 20-25 for humanities projects, and 25-30+ for social science projects) to your directing faculty three weeks before the end of the semester. Get their approval before printing out the official version with the proper honors formatting and which will be stored in Drury's Archive.

Spring Honors Banquet Poster Presentation – The Spring Honors Banquet is typically sometime in the last three weeks of the semester. Students will do a poster presentation of their research. All posters must be professionally printed. The Honors Director has samples.

Student and Supervising Faculty Checklist

Summer/Semester Before the Project starts

- ✓ Identify broad topic
- ✓ Select two faculty members to supervise

Semester One

- ✓ Proposal (2-4 pages)
- ✓ Proposal Defense
- ✓ Literature Review (8-15 pages + 30 article-length sources)
- ✓ IRB (if necessary)
- ✓ Conference Planning

Semester Two

- ✓ Data Gathering (if necessary)
- ✓ Outline (3-5 pages)
- ✓ Rough Draft (a minimum of 80% of the total length for the final project)
- ✓ Final Draft (15-20 pages for science project, 20-25 for humanities project, 25-30+ for social science project)
- ✓ Conference Presentation
- ✓ Spring Honors Banquet

TYPED YOUR TITLE HERE IN UPPERCASE

An Honors Thesis

Presented by

your legal name – following university records

Completion Date:
Month Year

Approved By:

Richard Schur, Honors Director

Name of Directing Faculty, Department

Name of Consulting Faculty, Department

Drury University, 2019
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ABSTRACT

Title: **Type Your Title Here**

Author: **Your Name**

Thesis/Project Type: **(Choose either Thesis or Project)**

Provide a brief description and summary of your research here; 250 words or less,
single spaced

Paper Title

Body of manuscript begins here

Format Requirements:

- Automatic page numbering starting with this page
- 1" margins on top, bottom, and right, 1.25" margins on left
- Double-spaced lines

Paper Requirements

- 8.5 x 11 inch, 20-pound acid-free paper.
- 2 Copies – one will be deposited in the University Archive and one will be kept in the Honors Program Office