The Honors College  
Policies and Procedures Honors Thesis/Independent Study

Students may choose to satisfy the fourth year of the honors curriculum by completing an honors thesis or independent study project. The purpose of this option is to provide students with the opportunity to work closely with individual faculty members to conceive, design, and carry out substantial research or creative projects that conclude with the submission of final original products of high quality. Independent study projects that call for students to serve purely as research assistants or to follow a program of directed readings are not acceptable. To ensure that the College accepts your proposal you are encouraged to discuss your project with an Honors College Dean well in advance of the proposal submission deadline. Students who wish to complete an honors thesis on independent study project must submit a completed the attached Honors Thesis/Independent Study Proposal Form no later than

Projects fall into one of the following two categories:

Category 1:

Department Honors Thesis
The Department of Psychology and Biology each have formally established policies for honors thesis options. Students who complete these departmental honors requirements are considered to have completed the fourth year requirement for the Honors College. Students in these departments are not eligible for honors independent study in the major.

Category 2:

Honors Independent Study in the Major
Students in departments other than Psychology and Biology may pursue honors independent study projects focusing on topics relevant to their majors and working with faculty members from their major departments.

Procedures for gaining approval for independent study projects:

1. Establish your Honors Independent Study committee, consisting of two people: your directing professor and a member of The Honors College faculty.

2. Work with the committee to outline a project that meets the general guidelines listed above.

3. Submit the Honors Independent Study Proposal form (attached) with all required signatures and supporting documents prior to the deadline.

4. Register for appropriate independent study courses for a total of 6 credits. The credits all may be completed in one term, or distributed over two terms, including the summer.

5. Keep your committee members abreast of your project.

6. Submit a copy of the final project with required cover sheet and original signatures to The Honors College no later than two weeks after the end of the term in which the work was completed.

Only projects that comply with these procedures will be applied toward the fourth year requirements for graduation through The Honors College.
Honors Thesis/Independent Study Evaluation Form

Student’s Name: ________________________________________  SSN: ________________________

Major _______________________________________ Expected Graduation Date: _________________

After carefully reading the attached sheet, choose one of the following options, and attach a 250-word abstract describing your project. Incomplete proposals will not be approved. Completed forms should be submitted.

Category 1-- Departmental Honors Thesis

Semester(s) in which work was completed _________________ 

Department ________________________________ Thesis Director (name) _______________________

Courses to be taken (must total at least 6 credits) 

Course prefix and number ______________________ title _____________________________________

TO BE COMPLETED BY FACULTY ONLY

(Student name)_______________________________ is completing under my direction the honors thesis described in the attached abstract.

Signature of Thesis Director __________________________ Date: ____________________________

Category 2 – Honors Independent Study in the major.

Semester(s) in which work is to be completed_____________

Department _______________________________ Project Director ______________________________

Committee Member ___________________________ (must be a member of the honors faculty)

Courses to be taken (must total at least 6 credits)

Course prefix and number ______________________ title _____________________________________

TO BE COMPLETED BY FACULTY ONLY

(Student name)_______________________________ is completing the honors independent study project as described on the attached abstract.

(Signature of Project Director) (Signature of Committee Member/Honors Faculty)

_____________________________________        Approved ____________________________________

(Signature of Student)                                            (Dean, The Honors College)

Date ___________________________________