

Honors Project Timeline and Instructions

1. In the first semester of your junior year

- You should decide if you want to do an honors project. This decision will be based on such considerations as whether you will have the passion to bring the project to completion and whether the commitments you will have in your senior year will permit the investment of time and energy required.
- Once you have decided that you will do a project, you need to begin talking with your faculty advisor to identify your areas of interest. Once you have chosen an area of interest and found interested faculty you can develop a bibliography of related literature.

2. In the summer before your senior year:

- Begin to review the literature in your area of interest, gaining familiarity with the area and beginning to identify issues, questions, or methods that interest you.

3. Early in the first semester of your senior year:

- Choose your committee, which will consist of a project director and two other faculty members, one from the department and one from another department. You will have a meeting in which you present a preliminary proposal. In this proposal you will present your reasons for doing your project (i.e. your questions), your choice of methodology (although the details may still need work), and the literature you find relevant. Your committee will then be able to provide suggestions and raise questions to help you.

4. By October 15:

- Set up your formal proposal meeting with your committee. At this time you will have all of your specific plans made for your project. If you are doing a research study, you will know who your subjects will be, what you will do with them, and how you will present what you find. If you are developing a clinical program, you will know what it will look like and what you will do to develop it. If it is an issue paper you are doing, you will have an extensive outline of the literature you will review and the parameters you will use in reviewing it. At this time, your committee may recommend changes that will improve your study. After your committee has approved your project, you will make plans to carry it out, collect your data, develop your program, or work through your literature.

5. In early March:

- Students must present the final draft of their Senior Honors Project to their committee by the end of February of the Spring semester in which they wish to graduate. Award forms signed by the committee must be in the registrar's office no later than one month prior to graduation.
- Students must successfully pass an oral defense of the Honors Project in early March. In addition, all final written corrections must be completed by mid-March.