

The Honors Project Format and its Counterparts in the Arts

In traditional academic disciplines, scientific and non-scientific, a paper incorporating the results of the student's research is the usual form. Such papers typically range in length from 30 to 80 pages of text (exclusive of the bibliography, prefatory material, charts, endnotes, appendices, and so on). Some departments try to limit Honors papers to the length of the average article in their professional journals. The Honors paper ordinarily should not exceed a total of approximately 100 pages of double-spaced typescript. Excessively long papers often reflect more zeal than discrimination, and indicate an inability to narrow the field of inquiry rather than thoroughness on the part of the Candidate.

Candidates in fine and performing arts fields may submit poems, drama, fiction, or film scenarios, and Candidates making original translations from a foreign language may use these to replace the traditional Honors paper. The Honors Project should be supplemented with an informative and critical introduction.

Honors Candidates in Studio Art will have a public exhibition of their work. Each artist will supplement the exhibition with an essay, which places the Honors Project in its historical and theoretical context. This artist's statement also includes a discussion of the development of formal structures and expressive concerns during the course of the Honors Project as well as photographic documentation of the project. Performing arts projects must also be appropriately documented. The Candidate and Faculty Adviser will decide on the nature of the documentation.