

The Written Honors Examination

The Written Honors Examination is typically weighted 25% in evaluating the Honors work overall. It is designed and administered by the Honors Faculty Adviser with the assistance of the Field Examiner and other faculty members as appropriate. It is NOT comprehensive; it is determined by the courses which the Candidate, in careful discussion with the Honors Faculty Adviser, has specified as having direct or indirect relevance to the Honors Project. These courses are listed on the **Record of Honors Field** and the record itself is in the file with Written Honors Examination so that the Candidate's examiners know what relevant formal instruction the Candidate has had. The Written Honors Exam must be completed by the end of final exams in the first semester of Honors.

The Honors Project should not be the object of direct inquiry in the Written Honors Examination. The aim of the Written Honors Examination is to ascertain the Candidate's general background and level of competence in the Honors Field. Suitable areas of inquiry in the Written Honors Examination might include: analogous problems, theoretical and methodological issues, historical antecedents, comparative perspectives, critical presuppositions, etc.

The Honors Faculty Adviser should make certain that the Candidate understands the rationale for this examination and its relevance to the Honors process. The Candidate should realize how this extra element distinguishes Honors work from ordinary 450 (independent study) courses.

The Honors Faculty Adviser should show the Candidate copies of pertinent written examinations which have been given, or, lacking such, should make up hypothetical questions in conjunction with the Field Examiner. In preparing the Written Honors Examination, the Honors Faculty Adviser and Field Examiner are free to consult instructors of any courses listed on the **Record of Honors Field**. The mechanics of the examination are flexible but should clearly indicate the following: the date when given; the place where the examination is to be picked up and returned; the type of examination (supervised, open-book, take-home); the length of time to be allotted for the examination (and if relevant, time limits for parts of the examination); the permissible use of secondary materials; the expectation regarding typing or writing by hand the final copy.

Because the Written Honors Examination is usually scheduled early in the process, it may be used diagnostically as the Honors Faculty Adviser and Candidate see fit. At the discretion of the Honors Faculty Adviser, parts of answers may be rewritten or supplemented by the Candidate, provided that the changes are labeled and attached to the original responses. A copy of the Written Honors Examination (questions and answers) will be submitted to the Honors Secretary.

The Written Honors Examination becomes the basis upon which the Field Examiner questions the Candidate during the Oral Honors Examination. All members of the Candidate's Individual Honors Examination Committee, including the Outside Examiner, are required to read the Written Honors Examination and may also question the Candidate about it. Arrangements for distribution of the Written Honors Examination (questions and answers), along with the Honors Project, are made by the Honors Secretary.