**Project of Excellence**

**Cohort 7 (Fall 2010) to Cohort 9 (Fall 2012) Only**

As the senior capstone of the overall Honors experience, the Project of Excellence (HONR 4195) is required of all students who graduate from the Honors Program. The Project provides each student the opportunity to design and implement work unique to his/her own major and interest. It consists of a paper, performance, or presentation of research results typical of professional work in the major field.

Ideally, the Project of Excellence grows out of inquiry, problem-solving, and research that begins in the Honors core courses, then develops in Honors contracting, upper-division, internships, and directed independent study courses. As the capstone experience, the Project of Excellence allows the student to integrate previous work and produce an original work of significant scope and importance while collaborating one-on-one with a faculty mentor.

The Project must be approved beforehand by the Honors Council and college in which the student is enrolled, and supervised by an honors faculty member. Results of the Project of Excellence will be presented publicly to honors students and faculty at the end of the semester and housed permanently in the Honors Program office.

**General Timeline for the Project of Excellence**

- Select your faculty mentor and develop a proposal at the end of your junior year. The proposal will be approved by your mentor (who will be the teacher of record for the course), the Honors Head, and the Honors Council.
- Register for the Project of Excellence the semester prior to graduation. If you plan to graduate in spring 2010, for instance, you will register for your Project of Excellence in fall 2009 and complete it in spring 2010.

**Project Proposal**

The project proposal must be approved before you can register for HONR 4195 and must include the following:

- Title Page.
- Approval Form [1].
- Introduction to the problem/issues, including the context and rationale for the project. Your introduction should have appropriate citations from primary literature in a documentation style customary in your discipline. Also identify your over-all goal: are you developing this project to publish your research, refine your skills, demonstrate your knowledge of a particular subject, or to more deeply study a topic or concept?
- Project hypothesis or objectives.
- Methods of approach - how will you test the hypothesis or achieve your objectives?
- Outcome - what format will your completed Project take?
- Bibliography.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, if required.
- Timeline - when you intend to complete primary research, dates that drafts will be completed, and times that you can discuss these drafts with your faculty mentor.
Guidelines for the Project of Excellence

- To ensure that students receive feedback and guidance during the entire process, students will meet in Senior Honors Seminar for 1-2 hours each week with the Honors Head to review drafts, discuss research, and assess results.
- The Honors Head and college representatives on the Council will be doing the reading for the Honors Program. A faculty member in the particular area of specialty might also be consulted. The Honors Director may also read the final projects.

Suggested Timeline for Fall Graduation

- First draft due in Honors Senior Seminar: October 15 (peers and faculty of record).
- Second draft due: November 10 (faculty of record).
- Third/final draft due: December 1 (faculty of record and Honors Program readers).

Suggested Timeline for Spring and Summer Graduation

- First draft due in Honors Senior Seminar: March 1 (peers and faculty of record).
- Second draft due: immediately after spring break (faculty of record.)
- Third/final draft due: April 15 (faculty of record and Honors Program readers) Projects will be judged as accomplished, competent, or still developing. See rubric for more detailed information about requirements.

Required Format for the Honors Project of Excellence

1. Title Page to include: title, name, date, cohort number, and Project of Excellence faculty mentor.
2. A one-page abstract.
3. If a running title is used, it must be limited to 50 characters
4. Submit an electronic copy of the final draft to the Head and Director.

Evaluating the Project of Excellence: The Oral Defense

The Honors Head designates a three-faculty examining committee to evaluate the Project of Excellence. Typically the examining committee will consist of the Honors Head, the faculty of record, and a faculty member who also serves on Honors Council. Oral defenses are typically, though not necessarily, held during the Fall and Spring Honors Symposia. Defenses are ordinarily held to 30 minutes: 10-15 minutes student presentation; 10-15 minutes committee examination; and any remaining time for audience questions.

The specific method of evaluation is detailed on the Project of Excellence Assessment Form [2] provided to the examining committee members. The Honors Head will notify students of the outcome of their defense. Students will not, however, have access to individual committee votes, comments, or notes.

Source URL: http://honors.tamucc.edu/students/requirements/pofe-x#comment-0

Links