

## **HONORS IN CREATIVE WRITING (Guidelines for Students and Advisers)**

### **The Honors Program**

As a rule, students seeking honors in Creative Writing complete a two-semester honors project in the senior year on topics of their choice with faculty advisers of their choice. Students seeking an exception to the two-semester requirement may apply for one to the Creative Writing Committee.

### **Eligibility to Apply**

- Declared English major
- Completion of 12 credits of 300/400 level English courses
- Minimum GPA of 3.25 in the English major; overall GPA of at least 3.0, or consent of the Creative Writing Committee

### **The Preliminary Honors Proposal and Independent Study**

Students submit preliminary 2-3 page proposals to the Creative Writing Committee in the semester preceding the anticipated beginning of work on the honors project (by April 15th for projects beginning in the fall semester and November 21<sup>st</sup> for projects beginning in the spring semester). Proposals 1) identify the genre and topic(s) that students wish to explore, 2) give a preliminary sense of the direction that those explorations will take, 3) specify meetings with the advisors and pages of writing to be completed, and 4) provide a bibliography of texts that students plan to examine. Students also provide a writing sample (usually one prose work or half-a-dozen poems).

Students produce the preliminary proposals in close collaboration with their project advisors. Students then submit their proposals to the department's Creative Writing Committee for approval.

Upon approval by the Creative Writing Committee, the Department Chairperson registers students for English 490 (Directed Study) for the following semester.

The chair of the Creative Writing Committee informs the Director of College Honors that the student has been approved to undertake honors in English and provides the latter with the name of the student, the name of the advisor, and the working title of the project.

### **The First Semester** (English 490)

Students work on their projects with their advisors, normally including at least one hour of meetings each week as specified in the preliminary proposal. Toward the end of the semester (by November 21<sup>st</sup> for the Fall semester and April 15th for the Spring semester), students submit to the Creative Writing Committee thesis proposals of approximately 3 pages that articulate with more specificity the direction in which projects are moving.

Students also submit samples of writing in progress from the project itself (usually one prose piece or a half-a-dozen poems). The Creative Writing Committee reviews the proposals and the writing samples, and the chairperson of the committee forwards any comments or suggestions to project advisors.

The decision whether or not to continue honors projects into the second semester rests with the student and the advisor. If they decide to continue, students register for English 491 (Directed Study) for the following semester. Project advisors give students a grade for English 490.

### **The Second Semester** (English 491)

Generally, a thesis in prose will be approximately 35-50 pages; a thesis in poetry is approximately 15-20 poems. The thesis, a body of original work, normally in one genre, should be of a higher caliber than is usually produced in 300-level creative writing courses.

In order to ensure that they are able to participate in year-end awards ceremonies and are listed in the Commencement program, students should submit final drafts of their projects to the Creative Writing Committee by the end of the second week of April in the spring semester and the end of the third week of November in the fall semester. Before submission to the committee, final drafts should be thoroughly read by advisors.

The committee will read the projects and award them honors or not. If the committee asks for revisions or corrections before making a determination, the chairperson will so inform students and advisors immediately, and students will have until the second week in December or the fourth week in April to make changes and resubmit projects.

Project advisors give students a grade for English 491. If the project is awarded honors, the chair of the Creative Writing Committee will so notify the Records Office and the Commencement Office. The chairperson will also notify the Director of College Honors whether or not the student has been awarded honors.

### **Completing the Honors Project**

To complete the Departmental Honors Project, students need to submit both paper and digital copies of the projects to the James P. Adams Library with a signature page signed by the project advisor, the chairperson of the Creative Writing committee, and the chairperson of the department. Directions for submissions are available on the Adams Library website: [www.ric.edu/adamslibrary](http://www.ric.edu/adamslibrary). Go to Services and then Thesis Submission.

Signature page models are available on the College Honors Website: [www.ric.edu/honors](http://www.ric.edu/honors). Go to “Departmental Honors Projects: and then “Completing the Honors Project.” There is also a brief online completion form to fill out and send to the Director of College Honors.

Students completing departmental honors projects are strongly encouraged to present their projects at a college-wide poster session held on the Monday afternoon prior to Cap and Gown and to attend the Honors Awards Banquet on that Monday evening. Honors cords for commencement will be awarded at the banquet. The Director of College Honors will circulate information about the poster session and the banquet.

### **Appeals Process**

In accordance with college academic policy, students may appeal the denial of honors by the Creative Writing Committee to the chairperson of the English Department.