

HONORS IN ENGLISH (Guidelines for Students and Advisers)

The Honors Program

As a rule, students seeking honors in English complete a two-semester honors project in the senior year on topics of their choice with faculty advisers of their choice. **Secondary Education** students, however, usually do their projects in the second semester of the junior year and the first semester of the senior year in order to accommodate student teaching requirements. Students seeking an exception to the two-semester requirement may apply for one to the English Honors and Scholarships Committee. **Creative Writing** students apply directly to the Creative Writing Committee, which has its own Guidelines.

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 Honors and Scholarships Committee

The Preliminary Honors Proposal and Independent Study

Students submit preliminary 2-3 page proposals to the English Honors and Scholarships Committee in the semester preceding the anticipated beginning of work on the honors project (by April 15 for projects beginning in the Fall semester and December 1 for projects beginning in the Spring semester). Proposals identify the topics that students wish to explore; give a preliminary sense of the direction that those explorations will take, including, to the extent possible, the methods, theories, and/or techniques to be used; identify the primary texts that students plan to use as well as a few key scholarly or critical works; and include a schedule for the completion of the various steps of the project.

Although certainly open to change and development, proposals should be more than just statements of interest and should reflect extended thought about the topic and at least an initial awareness of relevant resources in the field.

Students produce the preliminary proposals in close collaboration with their project advisers. Upon approval by the English Honors and Scholarships Committee, the Department Chairperson registers students for English 490 (Directed Study) for the following semester.

The Chairperson of the Honors and Scholarships notifies 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 adviser, and the working title of the project.

The First Semester (English 490)

Students work on their projects with their advisers, normally including at least one hour of meetings each week. Toward the end of the semester (by April 15 for the Spring semester and December 1 for the Fall semester), students submit to the English Honors and Scholarships Committee 4-5 page expanded proposals that articulate in more detail the direction in which projects are moving and provide more thorough bibliographies. The English Honors and Scholarships Committee will review the proposals, and the chairperson of the committee will forward any comments or suggestions to project advisers.

The decision whether or not to continue honors projects into the second semester rests with the student and the adviser. If they decide to continue, students register for English 491 (Directed Study) for the following semester. Project advisers give students a grade for English 490. (Advisers have the option of giving students Incompletes, thus deferring grades for both 490 and 491 until the completion of the final project.)

The Second Semester (English 491)

Because projects vary greatly, there is no absolute page requirement. Normally, however, projects will run between thirty and fifty pages, plus bibliography.

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 English Honors and Scholarships Committee by April 15 in the Spring semester (December 1 in the Fall semester). Before submission to the committee, final drafts should be thoroughly read by advisers.

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 advisers immediately, and students will have until the fourth week in April (or second week in December) to make changes and resubmit projects.

Project advisers give students a grade for English 491. If the project is awarded honors, the Chairperson of the English Honors and Scholarships 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 project to the James P. Adams Library with a proper title page and a signature page signed by the project adviser, the chairperson of the department honors committee, and the chairperson of the department. Directions for submissions are available on the Adams Library website: www.ric.edu/adamslibrary. Go to Services and then Thesis Submission.

Title page and signature page models are available on the College Honors Website: 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 English Honors and Scholarships Committee to the chairperson of the English Department.