

Honors Project Guidelines

An Honors Project, involving research, scholarship, or creative work, is required for the “Honors Academy Fellow” distinction at Missouri University of Science & Technology. The completed form must be approved by the supervising faculty member and uploaded to the Honors Academy Canvas Site by the fourth Friday of the semester for approval by the Honors Academy Director.

General Information

The Honors Project is an opportunity for in-depth exploration beyond typical course-related research. Your courses and experiences have prepared you to approach issues from various disciplinary perspectives. Choose a topic that interests you, aligns with your background and goals. Early planning allows more time for research and to develop a working relationship with a faculty member in your field.

The Honors Project is not a test of brilliance but a step towards intellectual growth through deeper exploration and faculty mentorship. It is the capstone experience of the Honors Academy, reflecting individualized instruction, independent study, close faculty-student relationships, and rigorous intellectual development.

Projects are usually within your major but can be interdisciplinary or based on co-op experiences. Discussions with the Honors Academy Director and your project mentor will help focus your project and gain approvals.

Project Content

The focus of the Honors Project is on discovery and deeper understanding. Projects should emphasize analytical thought, thorough investigation, and significant engagement with the chosen topic.

Key aspects of the project include:

- Exploring new ideas and gaining deeper insights into your chosen topic.

- Engaging with existing research to identify gaps or new perspectives.
- Developing your ability to think critically and solve complex problems.
- Collaborating with faculty members to enhance your research skills and knowledge.

Potential Project Types

Students have various options for their Honors Project, including but not limited to:

- **Undergraduate Research Experience:** Engage in a structured research project within your field of study, such as the S&T OURE program.
- **Co-ops:** Integrate your co-op experience into your project with support from an S&T Faculty Member and Co-op Supervisor.
- **Senior Thesis:** Conduct a comprehensive research project as a culmination of your major.
- **Senior Design:** Students can use a portion of their senior design course for the Honors Project. Note that the honors portion of the project should be mostly individual-based. Your project should be a distinct component of the larger project, demonstrating additional depth and contribution beyond what is required for the course.
- **Service Learning:** Participate in a service-learning project that integrates community service with academic study. Your project should include a reflection on the service experience and demonstrate how it contributes to your academic and personal growth.

Co-op Experiences

Students interested in using their co-op experience for their Honors Project must have a letter of support from both an S&T Faculty Member and their Co-op Supervisor. The Co-op Supervisor's letter should address the dissemination of findings and suggest appropriate venues for sharing their work. All co-ops must be registered with Career Opportunities and Employer Relations.

Credit for Your Thesis

A student may choose to use their project for course credit, but it is not required for the Honors Academy.

Dissemination of Findings

Sharing findings is crucial. Students must disseminate their work by:

- Submitting a written manuscript to Scholarly Mine
- Presenting at a campus symposium
- Presenting at a regional, national, or international conference
- Submitting a manuscript for publication in a journal
- Presenting at an approved public venue

Submit an electronic copy of your research and evidence of dissemination via the Honors Academy Canvas Site by the last Friday before exam week.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit the Honors Project Description Form by the fourth Friday of the Semester. Projects that have already been completed cannot be considered for the Honors Project.

Timeline and Milestones

To help manage your project, adhere to the following suggested timeline across three semesters:

First Semester:

- Select a topic and secure a faculty mentor.
- Conduct preliminary research and submit a project proposal for approval.

Second Semester:

- Continue research and gather data.
- Begin drafting plans for sharing your results.
- Review and revise the draft with your faculty mentor.

Third Semester:

- Finalize your research and complete the presentation.
- Prepare for the dissemination of your findings.
- Submit the final project and disseminate your work through the approved channels.

Ethical Considerations

Maintain academic integrity and adhere to ethical research practices. Ensure proper citations and avoid plagiarism. Consult your faculty mentor for guidance on ethical issues related to your project.

Appendix: Project Outline

Your project should generally include the following components, adjusted to fit your discipline:

1. **Abstract:** A brief summary of your project.
2. **Introduction/Prologue:** Describes the project objectives and problem statement.
3. **Literature Review:** Depending on the discipline.
4. **Methods:** Methods used in the project, varying by discipline.
5. **Results/Findings**
6. **Discussion:** Answers to the original questions and comparison with other research.
7. **Textual Material, Illustrations, and Tables:** Can be integrated or presented separately.
8. **Conclusions**
9. **Acknowledgment:** Thanks to those who assisted.
10. **References/Bibliography**
11. **Placement of Graphics:** Interspersed or placed after the bibliography.