

Overview of Honors Research

HCOL 3401: Honors Research I

Description: Students admitted to the NSU Honors Program work with a faculty member to identify a topic and conduct a literature review for planned scholarly or creative activity.

Students are enrolled in this course after they select a research advisor and turn in necessary paperwork to the Honors Program.

This semester the student is to

- **Select a Research Topic.** Consult with your research advisor on a suitable topic for your honors research.
- **Obtain IRB or IACUC Approval.** Any research involving human subjects requires IRB approval and any research involving animal subjects must be approved by the NSU IACUC. The approvals must be obtained before any research is started. It is common for applications to need revision prior to approval, so please start early (at least two months before your research begins). Honors students will need to work with their research advisor to complete the application(s).
- **Complete a Project Proposal.** The honors student will create a proposal of what you plan to accomplish for your honors project. The proposal summary will define the question or project idea, how you plan to complete the project, timeline for completing required tasks (e.g., IRB or IACUC approvals), unique resources required and how you plan to acquire them, and instructor expectations for excellent work. *The project proposal will need to be approved by the research advisor and the honors program director. It is due by the end of Honors Research I.*
- **Start the Research Project.** At the discretion of your instructor, you may be asked to start your project this semester. For example, there may be time sensitive factors that you need to consider for your project.
- **Grading.** The course is graded on a standard letter grade basis. The course instructor (research advisor) assigns the grade. Honors students are required to earn grades of C or higher in required honors courses to graduate with honors.

HCOL 3502: Honors Research II

Description: Students admitted to the NSU Honors Program work with a faculty member to research and develop their scholarly or creative activity.

Students are enrolled in this course after they successfully complete HCOL 3401.

This semester the student is to

- **Conduct Research, Create Artistic Composition, or Develop Other Scholarly Activity.** Students are responsible for contacting the research advisor and getting input for the project during this time. Please make necessary arrangements to ensure that you are making good progress on your project.
- **Obtain IRB or IACUC Approval.** If you have not done so, students need to obtain IRB approval and/or IACUC approval before conducting their research.
- **Grading.** The course is graded on a standard letter grade basis. The course instructor (research advisor) assigns the grade. Honors students are required to earn grades of C or higher in required honors courses to graduate with honors.

HCOL 4402: Honors Research III

Description: Students admitted to the NSU Honors Program work with a faculty member to complete an honors thesis, artistic composition, or other scholarly activity.

Students are enrolled in this course after they successfully complete HCOL 3502.

This semester the student is to

- **Complete Research Project, Artistic Composition, or Other Scholarly Activity.** Students are responsible for contacting the research advisor and getting input for the project during this time. Please make necessary arrangements to ensure that you are making good progress to complete your project this semester.
- **Honors Thesis Paper.** At the discretion of the research advisor, honors students may begin writing their honors research thesis paper or composing some other form of their scholarly work output suitable for their field of study.
- **Grading.** The course is graded on a standard letter grade basis. The course instructor (research advisor) assigns the grade. Honors students are required to earn grades of C or higher in required honors courses to graduate with honors.

HCOL 4501: Honors Research IV

Description: Students admitted to the NSU Honors Program present their scholarly activity to other Honors Program Students.

Students are enrolled in this course after they successfully complete HCOL 4402.

This semester the student is to

- **Complete Research Project, Artistic Composition, or Other Scholarly Activity.** Honors students will need to complete any remaining research tasks if they were not finished in HCOL 4402.
- **Honors Thesis Paper.** Students will work with their advisor to draft, edit, and complete their honors thesis (other appropriate output from scholarly activity for the student's field of study is accepted). The Writing Center is a useful resource for writing help. Students are required to submit a final copy of the scholarly work to the Honors Program. Guidelines for structuring the thesis are available from the Honors Program. Please use the appropriate writing styles for your discipline.
- **Thesis Paper Approval.** *The Honors Thesis will need to be approved by the faculty advisor and honors program advisor for purposes of graduating with honors from NSU.* Include the signature page with your paper and have the relevant individuals sign the document to certify that they have reviewed and approved the paper.
- **Presentation of Scholarly Work.** Honors students will prepare and deliver a public presentation of their work before the end of the semester. This may be done via the Honors Research Day or another suitable venue (e.g., Oklahoma Research Day or NSU Research Day). Make sure that your research advisor approves of your presentation before you agree to present the work in a public setting.
- **Grading.** The course is graded on a standard letter grade basis. The course instructor (research advisor) assigns the grade. Honors students are required to earn grades of C or higher in required honors courses to graduate with honors.