

Honors Proposal Checklist

The student, in consultation with his or her adviser, must prepare a 4-6 page proposal for a two-semester independent study. The proposal must be approved by the faculty adviser, whose signature on the cover sheet indicates the document has been evaluated in light of the required components below and satisfactorily addresses them.

The proposal should be summarized in a 100-150 word abstract on the cover sheet. The body of the proposal essentially should expand on the abstract by providing more detail. It should contain the following elements:

- A brief summary of the current state of the area in which the student intends to do research. This summary of the intellectual background of the area should provide a context for understanding what the student is trying to accomplish. It should refer to works in the bibliography (see last bullet), briefly indicating how each work is related to the area.
- A clear statement of what the student intends to do and how it relates to the current state of the area.
- The methods, theory, techniques, or materials to be used in the project, and why these have been chosen.
- An approximate timetable for the project, divided between two semesters.
- A means to evaluate progress.
- A bibliography of at least five works that relate to the area.

The cover sheet and the proposal should be submitted to the departmental honors committee for its approval no later than April 15, if the project is to begin in the fall semester, or November 15, if the project is to begin in the spring semester.

Once the honors committee approves the proposal, the student should sign up for independent study with the project adviser.