

## Department of Theatre Senior Honors Program

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**Projects may be proposed in any area of the Theatre Department's pursuits (dance, design, directing, choreography, performance, history, criticism, or playwriting) provided that supervisory personnel are available and willing to participate, and provided that appropriate facilities are available.**

*N.B. Eligibility for the honors program will be determined by the faculty. No financial resources are available.*

### **Objectives**

1. To provide Theatre and Dance majors who have demonstrated records of academic achievement with the opportunity to explore a sustained project in their senior year.
2. To expose majors to the rigors of research and creative work in line with graduate-level programs in Theatre or Dance Studies offered by members of the department, and to offer preparation for future graduate-level study.

### **Requirements**

1. To become eligible, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in their junior year with demonstrated excellence in coursework within and outside the Theatre Department in all three years of study.
2. Students must demonstrate a breadth of accomplishment within the Theatre Department, displaying achievement in more than one area of theatrical or dance study.
3. Completion of three designated courses in the junior and/or senior year (usually Theatre 399 Independent Study and two courses at the 300 or 400 level) by arrangement with the departmental Honors Coordinator and faculty advisor in a combination suitable to the proposed project. A minimum of B+ must be achieved in each course.
4. Maintenance of a minimum GPA of 3.5 in all course work in the senior year.
5. On-track completion of all other requirements for the Major in Theatre or Dance.
6. Inadequate achievement at any time in the senior year can result in the Honors Committee cancelling the student's standing as an honors candidate.

### **Procedures**

#### *Spring Quarter of Junior Year:*

Consultation on the nature of the project will begin in the spring quarter of the junior year. Talk with the Honors Coordinator and potential advisors about your ideas, and try to secure one faculty member who will agree to advise your project and another faculty member who will agree to be the second reader. Your supervising committee will consist of two faculty members (advisor and reader). *It is the student's responsibility to secure faculty committee members and to get their signatures on the form.*

Write your proposal (see below). The Honors application (see below) is due by **June 2**. I will review the project application and notify you of the decision by **June 15**.

#### *Before Fall Quarter of Senior Year Begins:*

Begin research on senior thesis project. Meet or touch base via e-mail with the Honors

Coordinator during new student week (**week of Sept. 15**) to discuss coursework and timeline. The student is responsible for filling out paperwork for a 399 proposal, if you plan to take an independent study, signed by the advisor.

*Senior Year:*

Honors candidates will meet regularly with their committee. At the end of each quarter, the student and committee will meet to assess progress, and then report to the Honors Coordinator via e-mail.

The project will culminate in the presentation of documentation (e.g. essay, self-evaluation, journal, or other written work *in addition to* any portfolio, performance, script, etc.) to the supervising committee and an oral defense before the committee. A research-based thesis should be 50-60 pages, whereas the written document accompanying a script or performance should be 20-25 pages; this document will explain the creative process and research that went into the final product. The oral defense for both kinds of theses will commence with a 10-15 minute presentation by the student and last up to 60 minutes in total. Questions may pertain explicitly to the student's project or to its implicit methodological, theoretical, scholarly, and/or artistic content. All requirements for the project, including the oral defense, must be completed in time to meet the School of Communication deadlines for notification of honors conferral (**April 15**). An electronic copy and bound copy of the thesis must also be submitted to the committee before the defense and to the coordinator by **April 15**. The final copy will also include a title page, abstract, acknowledgments, and a table of contents.

In the event that the committee cannot come to consensus about the student's continuance in or successful completion of the honors program, the Honors Coordinator will cast a deciding vote. If the Honors Coordinator is a member of the committee, the Chair of Theatre will appoint a third faculty member to cast a deciding vote. Students have no appeal to a decision of the committee.

At the end of senior year, upon approval by the committee, honors will be granted to students who have satisfied all the requirements of the program. **An Honors designation will become part of the student's official university transcript and will also appear in the graduation program, however no such designation will appear on the student's diploma.**

**The Honors Application**

This must consist of:

- a signed form with signatures of advisor and committee member
- a research proposal (two to three pages, double-spaced): a description of the honors project (including research questions, objectives, method(s) of evaluation, and a timeline.
- a copy of your transcript (this may be a printout from Caesar) showing grades through the end of junior year.
- resume