

The University of Akron Honors College & The Mary Schiller Myers School of Art
7100:499 Honors Project in Art
Honors Research Advisor: Associate Professor Markus Vogl, MFA
Office: Folk 124A
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Course Description

Every Honors College student must complete an acceptable Honors Research Project. The Honors Research Project in Art is an integral part of the UA Honors experience for Myers School of Art students seeking degrees in fine arts, graphic design, art education, and art history. Interdisciplinary, creative projects are encouraged. General information on the Honors Research Project can be found on the Honors College website, at:
<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/>

Rationale

The Honors Project in Art demonstrates a student's ability to independently pursue her/his creative and scholarly research at an advanced level, beyond that of a standard baccalaureate degree, and exhibits research and critical skills developed through intense undergraduate study that are necessary to pursue a career or graduate-level study in his/her discipline.

Credit Hours

The credit hours allowed for the Honors Research Project will depend on the nature of the project. Usually students enroll in two or three hours per semester, up to a total of six hours. The minimum number of credits is two.

Prerequisites: The Research Proposal

Students should be planning for the Honors Research Project during their junior year. Serious work on the project should begin at least one year prior to your graduation date. It is best if you submit the proposal during the semester in which you will be completing 96 or more credits.

The student must have attained senior standing or approval of the proposal from one of the deans of the Honors College and the approval of the honors research advisor before enrolling in Honors Project in Art for credit. In order to receive clearance to enroll, art students must submit a complete Research Proposal to the Honors College.

Details on the Research Proposal are available at:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/honors-projects-proposal.dot>

The Research Proposal includes (1) a cover sheet naming the project sponsor and readers as well as (2) a description of the intended project. Please see the Honors College website for both the cover

sheet and more details regarding the written description. Students are responsible for recruiting a project sponsor and at least two readers, and securing their signatures. The description is expected to be a cohesive, well-written narrative of up to 500 words (2 pages) and must include the following:

1. Describe the project's purpose and goals.
2. How will the project will be undertaken? Describe the design, methodology, and limitations of the project. Be specific.
3. Describe the final presentation of the project. What will be the written product of your work on this project? If the project is to be performed or presented, what will be the occasion and the audience?
4. Present justification of the project's value. Answer questions such as: What do you expect to learn from doing this project? What will be accomplished by the completion of this project? What makes it worth doing? What will be the benefits of the project for people other than yourself?

Students are advised to work closely with their project sponsor as they draft and refine the proposal description, and are strongly encouraged to submit a near final draft of the description to the Honors Research Advisor for review before finalizing the proposal.

Research Project Types

Your project may be one of the following types:

1. Research Thesis (Art History) - original scholarship investigating a significant question. This thesis must follow the standards of The Chicago Manual of Style and include an abstract of 200 words or less, a narrative of at least 25 pages, and a bibliography.
2. Research Report (Art Education) - a formal written presentation of technical, laboratory, or investigative research. This report must follow the standards of The Chicago Manual of Style and include an abstract of 200 words or less, a narrative of at least 25 pages, and a bibliography.
3. Artistic or Creative Performance or Production (Fine Art and Graphic Design) - an exhibition of at least 10 original works or equivalent (given diversity in media, individual projects will have to be negotiated with the Honors Research Advisor). A written component addressing content, media, working methodology, craft, and/or the historical and contemporary context for the project must accompany the exhibition. The essay must follow the standards of The Chicago Manual of Style and include an abstract (or artist's statement) of 200 words or less, a narrative of at least 10 pages, and a bibliography.

The project must meet high standards of scholarship, and all projects must be completed independently of all other course work. The student must also meet any additional department or college requirements for this project, such as prerequisite coursework or experience, qualifying examination, or oral presentation. Study abroad or field experience may be accepted, with the approval of the student's honors research advisor, as part of the project.

Funding Sources

Students are encouraged to seek grants to support any expenses related to their Honors Research Project. In the Myers School of Art, Dashiell Awards support tools, materials and travel needed for ambitious student projects. These grants can be up to \$1000 per student, and are awarded in Fall and Spring semesters. See here for additional information:

<https://www.uakron.edu/art/student-life/scholarships-and-grants.dot>

Submission requirements

Upon completion of the Honors Project in Art, students will produce a print-on-demand book from an online vendor (Blurb, MagCloud, Edition One Books, etc.) and submit one copy to the honors research advisor. Your book should contain:

- title page;
- Honors Research Project signature page;
- Honors Research Project abstract or artist's statement;
- thesis / narrative;
- bibliography; and if applicable
- visual documentation of all art works created, and
- visual documentation of exhibition or equivalent presentation of the work.

For the Honors College, students should submit the final book, including the completed Research Project signature page, to IdeaExchange at UAkron electronically. IdeaExchange is an online repository of original research managed by the University of Akron library. Further details about how to upload your thesis can be found here:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/honors-projects-submission.dot>

Who is involved?

Additional details regarding the faculty roles are available here:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/honors-projects-faculty.dot>

Honors Research Advisor

As the Honors Research Advisor, Associate Professor Markus Vogl, MFA is responsible for overseeing and approving the Honors Research Project. His primary duty is to ensure that all projects meet the high standards expected of Honors students in the Myers School of Art. In addition, he provides advice and guidance through the process and its many deadlines, as well as facilitates the paperwork involved. Students are encouraged to meet with the Honors Research Advisor early in their junior year to review the requirements for the Honors Research Project, and to consult as needed while enrolled in 7100:499.

Honors Research Project Sponsor

The sponsor is easily the most important faculty member involved in the Research Project. Students select and work closely with their sponsor to develop the Research Proposal and to see the project to completion. The project sponsor provides mentorship and advice, and is the primary source of feedback on the project as it develops. The sponsor is also responsible for grading the completed Honors Research Project.

Readers

A student must select at least two Readers for their Research Project. Readers can be UA faculty or extramural mentors. Readers are expected to serve as additional sources of feedback on the proposal, and on the project itself as it nears completion. Often Readers write letters of recommendation for students as they pursue graduate study or employment, and you are encouraged to select and cultivate your readers with this in mind. Readers must sign-off on the final project for a student to receive credit.

The Honors Student

While the Advisor, Sponsor and Readers are all available to help, ultimately you are responsible for your Honors Research Project. You are responsible for determining when meetings are necessary with your sponsor, advisor or readers; for working consistently on the project so that deadlines are met; for consulting regularly with your sponsor throughout the process; for strictly meeting all deadlines; and for ensuring that all materials submitted are only of the highest standards.

Academic Misconduct Policy

The University of Akron's Code of Student Conduct

(<http://www.uakron.edu/studentconduct/code-of-conduct.dot>) defines academic misconduct as "any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the student and university, and undermines the educational process." Further, "it is each student's responsibility to know what constitutes academic misconduct and to seek clarification directly from the instructor if necessary. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Submission of an assignment as the student's original work that is entirely or partly the work of another person.
- Failure to appropriately cite references from published or unpublished works or print/non-print materials, including work found on the World Wide Web.
- Possession and/or unauthorized use of tests, notes, books, calculators or formulas stored in calculators not authorized by the instructor during an examination.
- Providing and/or receiving unauthorized information from another student to complete an assignment.
- Observing or assisting another student's work.
- Violation of the procedures prescribed by the professor to protect the integrity of the examination.

- Cooperation with a person involved in academic misconduct.”

- From the 2015-16 University of Akron Undergraduate Bulletin

All instances of Academic Misconduct are taken with utmost seriousness and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards as required by university procedures.

Accommodations

In accordance with University policy, students with a documented disability for which accommodations may be required should contact the Office of Accessibility:

Simmons Hall 105
The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213
Phone: (330) 972-7928
TDD: (330) 972-5764
Fax: (330) 972-5422
E-mail: access@uakron.edu

Be certain the instructor has been notified of your accommodations prior to the submission of the first assignment since accommodations are not retroactive (e.g., you cannot retake an exam or resubmit written work after earning a poor grade without accommodations in effect).

Further information

The Honors College website offers a wealth of information on the Research Project:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/>

A database of Honors Research Projects from previous UA Honors students is accessible through this link:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/curriculum/honors-projects/honors-projects-search.dot>

Honors Research Project Schedule

Junior Year, First Semester:

- Meet with Honors Research Advisor to review the Honors Research Project standards and process.
- Formulate general ideas about the direction of the project so that you know who to approach as a potential Sponsor.

Junior Year, Second Semester:

- Select a faculty Sponsor, under whose direction you can plan and complete the project.
- Select at least two Readers.

- Working with your Sponsor, plan your research project. Draft a description for your Research Proposal and have it reviewed by your Sponsor, Readers and the Honors Research Advisor.
- Once your description is finalized, secure the necessary approval signatures and submit your Research Proposal (signature page and description) to the Honors College through IdeaExchange. Proposals are expected to be complete by October 1st if submitted during a fall semester, or by March 1st if submitted in the spring.
- If appropriate, secure an exhibition venue for the following semester. Exhibitions should take place by Week 12 of the semester in which you complete your Honors Research Project.
- Enroll in 7100:499 for the following semester.

Senior Year, First Semester:

Week 1:

- Meet with Honors Research Advisor to review your Honors Research Project process and deadlines.

Weeks 1-10:

- Meet with your Sponsor and work on your project. Consult with Readers as needed. Consult with the Honors Research Advisor as needed.

By Week 11:

- Submit initial drafts of abstract and project to your Sponsor and the Honors Research Advisor.

By Week 12:

- Circulate final drafts of abstract and project to your Sponsor, Readers and the Honors Research Advisor.

Week 12, Monday:

- Visual arts exhibitions must be on display by this date. Document exhibition clearly and thoroughly for the final book.
- If applicable, arrange a group critique with your Sponsor and the Honors Research Advisor. You are strongly encouraged to have your Readers attend as well.

By Week 15:

- Submit digital copy of your book to IdeaExchange.
- Present a physical copy of your book to the Honors Research Advisor.