

# Ithaca College Honors Program Thesis Guidelines

The honors capstone project may consist either of a research thesis or a creative project. Both types of projects should display a comparable amount of work and expertise. The project may be completed specifically for honors or in another course or capstone experience as long as the project meets the requirements outlined here. Every project must have a thesis adviser who is a continuing faculty member at IC. Honors students should approach possible faculty advisers as early as possible in the thesis process, to ensure the adviser's availability and to seek advice on planning the completion of the project. Students may want to identify other faculty members as well who could help advise them about their projects.

**The thesis adviser** must be a continuing faculty member at Ithaca College. The thesis adviser will

- Approve the thesis proposal after consulting with the student about defining the project
- Meet regularly with the student to advise on completing the project
- Approve the completed project

**Student must submit a proposal form**, which can be downloaded from Taskstream, signed by the student and thesis adviser. The proposal will be vetted and approved by the Honors Faculty Steering Committee, which will decide whether to accept the proposal. Proposals should be submitted as early in the process as possible, preferably by the end of the student's junior year; students must have an action plan for completing their projects by the beginning of their senior year. A copy of the proposal form should be uploaded to Taskstream with the other artifacts that document the process of completing the thesis. Parameters outlined below may be adjusted at the discretion of the thesis adviser, to ensure that the project is appropriate for the relevant discipline.

**The research thesis** is a conventional research paper typical of those in the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, or professional fields. It will consist of 40-60 double-spaced printed pages of text, not including documentation, with one-inch margins on all sides, in Times New Roman 12-point font. (For students in some disciplines, such as science and math, a shorter thesis may be appropriate to their disciplines.) The research process may combine library research with surveys, laboratory work, or other methods for gathering data directly. In short, the research project should reflect the typical research methods of the discipline and make a contribution to that discipline. Published sources must be carefully documented in whatever format is standard for the principal discipline of the thesis. The file of the research thesis submitted to the Taskstream portfolio should be saved in Portable Document Format (.pdf).

**The creative project** is an experiential project supplemented by written research; it is most appropriate for students of the fine arts and performing arts. Students will submit digital artifacts (e.g., audio, photos, videos) documenting the project; these artifacts should document not just a finished product, but also earlier steps in the creative process. Students will also submit a written document, which will contextualize the finished work by discussing the students process in completing the project, as well as influences, intentions, and themes reflected in the project. The accompanying paper should be 10-20 double-spaced printed pages of text, not including documentation, with one-inch margins on all sides, in Times New Roman 12-point font. Published sources must be carefully documented using whatever format is standard for the principal discipline of the project. The file of the accompanying paper submitted to the Taskstream portfolio should be saved in Portable Document Format (.pdf). Some possible creative projects:

- Writing: short novel, story collection, poetry chapbook
- Music: senior lecture-recital in music
- Theatre arts: writing, designing, directing, or acting in a stage play
- Cinema or TV-R: film or video project
- Art or photography: visual art portfolio or gallery exhibit