THE ENGLISH HONORS PROGRAM

The English Honors Program is designed to provide outstanding English majors with some special options for fulfilling Departmental requirements. The Program should appeal to students interested in the intensive study of literature and culture in small discussion seminars and in independent exploration of a special topic, of their own choosing, under the guidance of a faculty member.

Typically, students take English Honors seminars during the sophomore and junior year and spend a major portion of the senior year writing their Honors thesis. Both the seminars and the thesis count toward the English Department requirement of 36 upper-division hours. Upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements, students graduate with the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honors in English:

1. All regular English Department requirements;

2. A minimum of two English Capstone Seminars (ENG 407); at least one such seminar is offered each term;

3. Ordinarily two terms of English 403 (Thesis) for up to 8 hours credit, a directed program of study or creative writing to be determined by the student with the guidance of an appropriate advisor of the student’s choosing;

4. A senior thesis, which may be either a critical essay of 35-50 pages or a substantial piece of creative writing, due by the end of the second term of English 403 or not later than six weeks before the end of the term in which the student intends to graduate. The thesis must be approved by the advisor and a second reader, both of whom are usually English Department faculty, after an oral defense.

Admission and Supervision

English Majors interested in being admitted to the English Honors Program apply to the Program’s director, the Associate Department Head. Applicants must have earned a cumulative GPA in their English classes of 3.7 and completed at least two upper-division English courses, and, if possible, all lower division major requirements, including the Introduction to the Major sequence (ENG 220, 221, & 222).

Admission is decided by the Department’s Curriculum Committee and is based upon the applicant’s academic record, a brief description of the applicant’s proposed thesis project (no more than 500 words), and the recommendation of two faculty members in the English Department. Students may reapply to the Honors Program one time, but no later than the last term of their junior year.

Students choose their thesis advisor and second reader in consultation with the Director of the English Honors Program. While registered for thesis credit (ENG 403), students confer with the thesis advisor at regular intervals as mutually agreed. They may also confer with their second reader. Students keep the Director of the Honors Program informed of their progress.