Departmental Honors in English

Students can participate in departmental honors in English as a “stand alone” or they can use departmental honors in English to fulfill part 2 (experiential work) of University honors.

The ideal way to fulfill the honors requirements for English honors looks like this:

**Sophomore spring:** Apply to honors program during sophomore year or early in junior year. You can apply online if you have taken 2-3 English courses and have an English GPA of 3.33* (Talk to the honors director if you are interested in completing honors but do not meet these requirements).

**Junior year fall semester:** ENGL 4XXX: honors seminar

**Junior year spring semester:** ENGL 4XXX: honors seminar

**Senior year fall semester:** ENGL 4020: Honors Thesis Workshop course 3 s.h. (Part 1 of Thesis project)

**Senior year spring semester:** ENGL 4040: Undergraduate Honors Project independent study (1-3 s.h.) (Part 2 of Thesis project)

To graduate with honors you need to achieve a 3.5 GPA in English department, receive an A- or better in at least one of the ENGL 4XXX seminars taken above and maintain an overall GPA of 3.33 as well as finishing the thesis project by the assigned spring deadline.

If you cannot do the above plan (especially for those with study abroad plans or English Education majors, who student teach in their last semester), there are alternate methods but it does take a minimum of three semesters and you’d need to meet with the director of the honors program to discuss options ahead of time. The director for 2015-2017 is Marie Kruger.  Marie-Kruger@uiowa.edu

Students are responsible for finding a faculty mentor to guide them through the thesis year but can discuss their thesis with the honors director if they need suggestions for which faculty members might be willing or might be knowledgeable to the thesis topic.

**Thesis:**

A student can choose from five types of English honors theses:
- literary and cultural studies (critical writing),
- electronic writing and multimedia production (especially for those with a background in cinematic arts/media studies),
- English education (for English education major),
- creative writing (for those in the creative writing track), and
- interdisciplinary work, which allows a student to earn honors in two departments with one, lengthier project.

Generally speaking this project is a literary analysis involving research. Those students who are ALSO in the creative writing track can propose a creative project as the main portion of their thesis and that project will be supplemented with other components that will involve research and be outlined by the honors director when you ask for approval for the creative project thesis.