

The Research Honors Program at Marietta College

What is a Research Honors thesis and why should I do one?

A Research Honors thesis is a major academic project completed during one's senior year that represents a level of intellectual accomplishment and scholarship *clearly above that expected of other graduates in the discipline*. This project is frequently a 30-60-page research paper, an applied work, or an artistic creation. A project that begins with a summer Investigative Studies grant or as part of a capstone course may be developed into an Honors thesis. In order to be eligible, one must have at least 80 credit hours completed. One must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.300 overall and 3.300 within the relevant major or minor to pursue Research Honors.

A student who completes a thesis garners the distinct prestige of a Research Honors designation on his or her official transcript. In addition, that student is offered a unique opportunity to work with faculty members of his or her choosing on a topic of his or her choosing. The experience of Honors research can serve as an excellent bridge between the work students complete at MC and the work that will be expected of them in graduate school and/or in their careers. In addition, all theses are published on the OhioLINK databases; therefore, completing an Honors project at MC is a sure-fire way of becoming an author!

Research Honors Fall 2011/Spring 2012 Timetable

Fall Semester 2011

Informational meeting:

Monday, September 5 at 12:00pm in Bartlett Hall room 362.
Attendance is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.

Intent form due from candidate to David Brown (*must be signed by advisor*):

By Friday, September 9 by 5:00pm

Draft of the proposal due to advisor and second reader (if one has been named):

Negotiate this date with your advisor. Each candidate must meet with his or her advisor for a substantive discussion of the proposal before September 23. By the time the draft reaches the HISC, it should clearly articulate the feasibility, method(s), and goals of the project.

Draft of the proposal from candidate due to David Brown, signed by advisor:

By Friday, September 30 at 5:00pm

The candidate will have received formative feedback on proposal draft from the HISC, in consultation with the candidate's advisor:

By Friday, October 7.

Candidate registers for 1-3 hours of "DEPT" 493: Research Honors for the semester in which they will complete the thesis. Be sure to submit a learning contract to the Records Office with your advisor listed as the instructor.

Candidate submits final proposal to thesis committee and David Brown:

By Friday, November 11.

Last day for candidate to present an oral summary of the proposal to his/her thesis committee. The committee may ask the candidate to undertake some additional revision:

By Friday, November 18.

After the thesis committee decides whether to accept or reject the proposal and communicates that decision to the candidate, a letter of decision from thesis advisor is due to David Brown:

By Friday, November 28.

Spring Semester 2012

Candidate meets thesis committee to discuss his/her progress and confirm/slightly revise his/her timeline for completion:

By Friday, February 24.

Thesis advisor sends David Brown a letter (an email message is acceptable) confirming the committee meeting and reporting progress on the project:

By Friday, March 2.

Candidate sends a complete draft of the thesis to his/her committee:

One week prior to thesis defense

The last day to hold a thesis defense:

By Friday, April 13.

Thesis advisor informs David Brown in writing whether the thesis has been approved, provisionally approved, or rejected by the thesis committee:

As soon as possible after the defense

Electronic file of thesis with hard copy of signed approval page due from candidate to David Brown:

By 12:00pm on Monday, April 23

How to find past Marietta College Honors Theses on OhioLINK

If you would like to find recent Honors theses online, you can check them out through our library's homepage. From the library homepage, click on the "OhioLINK Home" link. From there, click on the "ETD Center" link. Wasn't that fun? Next, click on "Browse ETDs by school and department." From there, you simply scroll down to "Marietta College Honors Theses." The other "Marietta College" link will take you to our school's graduate theses. On the "Marietta College Honors Theses" page you will find papers from the disciplines of English, Communications, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, History, and Psychology. You can download the entire projects from the library and see for yourself what goes into a thesis.

From Psychology:

Psychological, Pharmaceutical, or Neurosurgical: A Meta-Analysis of Treatments for Tourette's Syndrome.

Tourette's Syndrome (TS) is defined by multiple motor and vocal tics that occur numerous times a day within a period of one year. These tics vary along a continuum from minor inconveniences to major disturbances in the lives of those who suffer from TS. While there are numerous treatments for TS, to date there have been no satisfactory analyses comparing the efficacy of these treatment methods. The present study represents the first meta-analysis of the three major categories of treatments for Tourette's syndrome. While previous studies have examined the efficacy of specific treatments or compared the efficacy of more than one specific treatment, this study compiles data from 134 studies spanning all three major categories of Tourette's syndrome treatments, examining over 45 specific treatments. Tourette's syndrome is a multifaceted disorder affecting a range of individuals. Because of the numerous treatments available for TS, choosing the best course of action is often difficult. The results of this study indicate that neuroleptics are highly effective pharmaceuticals, but the noradrenergic modulators clonidine and guanfacine may prove better first-choice drugs due to their decreased incidence of side effects. The psychological treatments habit reversal therapy and exposure and response prevention are also particularly promising, and good first-choice options for clinicians skilled in their use, although other methods may be effective as well. Neurosurgery and deep-brain stimulation appear to be very effective options for individuals with severe TS that is irresponsive to other techniques. Historically, clinicians have relied on anti-psychotic drugs such as haloperidol as the first line of treatment. However, this and other research suggests that psychological treatments may be considered first in order to minimize the incidence of side effects.

From History:

Film as a Historical Text: Exploring the Relationship between Film and History through the Life and Reign of Elizabeth I.

This thesis explores the relationship between history and film, using five films about Queen Elizabeth I. The main themes of Elizabeth's life and reign are determined through a historiography. Then the films are analyzed to determine if they deal with the same themes, either accurately or inaccurately. Then the use of film as a history is determined, and whether its use is as a supplement or complement.

From Mathematics and Computer Science:

On Conformal Mappings and Vector Fields.

We seek to extend the applicability of the tools of complex analysis that have been developed to deal with problems in two-dimensional harmonic field theory. In order to ease the reader who has only a basic understanding of complex analysis into a working knowledge of its relevant applications to field theory, this material is introduced through the use of vector fields as common ground. Opportunities for using the mathematical tools being developed to solve physical problems are also highlighted by examples in order to aid comprehension and foster intuition. Established techniques used in solving problems involving point sources are then generalized to handle those involving interval sources.

From English:

"An Improbable Fiction": How Fans Rewrite Shakespeare.

This paper explores how fans construct works of fanfiction based on William Shakespeare's plays. Fans situate themselves within the modes of discourse common to online fanfiction communities, and within those modes of discourse, their works serve four primary functions. Writing fanfiction helps to familiarize writers with the content and style of their source texts; it also allows writers to expand upon the events and characters available in these texts; it serves as a medium for subtle critical analysis of texts, which in many ways parallels mainstream literary criticism; and it allows writers to interact with a shared-knowledge community of fanfiction writers and readers.

Intent Form - Intent to Submit a Proposal for a Research Honors Thesis

Name _____

Local Mailing Address _____

Local Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Discipline (major or minor) in which Research Honors is being sought:

Advisor for thesis (signature required): _____

Printed name: _____

Return to: Dr. David Brown, Biology/Environmental Science, by Friday, September 9
before 5:00pm.