

University Honors Program HON 298 (Honors Research/Independent Study): Guidelines

Introduction

You may earn research or independent study credit for individual or group work performed under faculty supervision. Research is defined as discovery-, inquiry- or creativity-based learning. It may be conducted in a laboratory, art studio, field site, or any setting in which scholarly pursuit of new knowledge occurs. Study may occur at NC State or elsewhere, so long as it is supervised by 1) a member of the faculty at NC State or 2) a member of the faculty at another university, or 3) someone in government or private industry who is approved by a member of the faculty at NC State.

Note: We encourage you to visit NC State's Office of Undergraduate Research web site at www.ncsu.edu/undergrad-research for information about finding research mentors. A unit of the Division of Undergraduate Affairs, the Office of Undergraduate Research supports and promotes excellent undergraduate opportunities in discovery-, inquiry- and creativity-based scholarship through mentored research experiences with NC State faculty and other national and international scholars and professionals.

The project undertaken should be at a level appropriate to your background and abilities. Research should involve inquiry into a question requiring a systematic approach to finding an answer. As you formulate your research question, remember that the long-term goals of guided independent inquiry may be served by researching well-understood problems as well as those to which no one yet knows the answer.

Your work should involve self-reflection, independent and/or collaborative learning, project design and completion, and the capacity to develop, test, and modify project outcomes.

For more information, contact Dr. Larry Blanton, Director, University Honors Program, at Larry_Blanton@ncsu.edu.

Goals of Undergraduate Research/Independent Study

- To engage students in the full work of a research university
- To provide students opportunities and skills to develop research projects and independent study plans
- To foster close student/faculty working relationships around common problems
- To create new models for academic credit based on student-centered learning

Outline of Process

- (1) You should endeavor to identify a faculty mentor the semester prior to enrolling in HON 298. Visit the UHP website for suggestions on how to identify a faculty sponsor.
- (2) Ideally, you and your faculty sponsor will complete and submit the HON 298 Proposal Form prior to the beginning of the semester of enrollment in HON 298. [However, see item (4) below.] Please read the instructions accompanying the form and note that it requires you to submit a written proposal and to obtain the signatures of the faculty mentor, department head, and UHP director. In rare circumstances, it may be necessary for the UHP director to refer the proposal to the Honors Council for approval. You and your faculty mentor will be notified by e-mail of the project approval.

- (3) Preregister for HON 298. You must register for HON 298 to get credit for the experience. This is a 3-credit hour course. Please note that we offer two sections of HON 298; register in section 001 if you wish to earn a letter grade and in section 002 for S/U credit.
- (4) It may be necessary to spend the first 2-3 weeks of the semester of HON 298 enrollment to prepare the plan of work required by the form (see form instructions). Therefore, the target deadline for receipt of proposals is the 20th day of classes. Note that we will accept HON 298 proposals throughout the semester. You and your faculty mentor will be notified by e-mail of project approval. If an approved proposal is not on file by the last day of classes no grade will be given in nor credit earned for the course.
- (5) You and your faculty mentor should plan to meet regularly during the time of the project, preferably no less frequently than once every two weeks.
- (6) The UHP will mail a Grade Report form for your faculty mentor to complete at the end of the semester in which you are enrolled in HON 298. You must earn either a B- or better or an S in order to fulfill UHP requirements.
- (7) You must submit a copy of the final project or report to the UHP office before the last day of exams in the semester in which you are registered for HON 298.

You may earn HON 298 credit for on- and off-campus summer research experiences, including the UHP sponsored Undergraduate Research Awards. The diversity of possible experiences and credit-earning agreements cannot be addressed here. Please contact Dr. Blanton (Larry_Blanton@ncsu.edu) to discuss your specific situation.

Note concerning group projects: the process described above applies to group projects as well. In such cases, the project description of a group project should specify clearly the roles each student will play in the project.



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