

UCSB Department of English Honors Program

“Individual Track” Application

The Honors Program in English provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research or creative work. Successful performance in the Program leads to graduation with “Distinction in the Major.” *This program is especially recommended for students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in literary studies.*

Majors who have completed at least two quarters of the junior year with a minimum GPA of 3.5 (overall and in the major) may apply for admission to the Honors Program under the Individual Track. The application includes:

- 1) An application form available from the Department office
- 2) A prospectus (2-3 pages) with proposed reading list for the thesis. (Examples of the prospectus format and reading list are available in the Department of English main office. The prospectus should clearly indicate the **area** of your proposed study, the **problems** you wish to solve, and the **methodology** you will use to solve them.)
- 3) A statement of sponsorship from the faculty member who will supervise and evaluate the project. (This can be submitted as part of the application form or separately.)

The English Honors Program comprises two related courses (4 credits each) taken in two consecutive quarters during the senior year, preferably fall and winter. The first course is an independent study (English 199). In the independent study, with the guidance of your sponsor, you complete a substantial portion of the required research and submit for formal evaluation some part of the thesis or creative work. The second course is Honors English (English 196), during which you complete the honors project. Each of these courses may be used to satisfy an upper-division English elective, but they may *not* be used to satisfy the English 197 upper division seminar requirement.

Applications for the Program must be submitted *before* the quarter in which the honors project is to begin. For specific dates, contact the staff undergraduate advisor, Brian Ernst, at (805) 893-4710 or at bernst@hfa.ucsb.edu. The undergraduate staff advisor will notify you after the Undergraduate Committee has reviewed the application.

If your project requires financial support, you may wish to contact the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) office for information on undergraduate fellowships and scholarships: <http://www.duels.ucsb.edu/urca/grant>

Students complete the English Honors Program and earn Distinction in the Major by submitting to the faculty mentor a substantial, sustained piece of critical or creative writing of at least 35 pages in length. This project is to be typed in a form declared suitable by the department, and will be retained in the department archives. A sample format for the thesis is available in the English Department. Honors projects are due no later than the last day of classes in the quarter you enroll in English 196.

Successful completion of the 8.0 units of coursework and Honors Thesis project via either track carries the designation of “Distinction in the Major” if a student: 1) attains a GPA of 3.5 overall in the English Honors Program and 2) maintains a GPA of 3.5 in English (in the overall major and the upper division). For exceptional work the Undergraduate Committee may recommend additional department recognition of “Special Distinction.”

UCSB DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
INTO THE DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM
"INDIVIDUAL TRACK"

Student name: _____ Perm. number: _____

Class standing (Jr., Sr.) _____ If senior, which quarter will you graduate? _____

In which quarters/year will you undertake this project? _____

Local address: _____

Local telephone number: _____ Email address: _____

To be filled out by the Undergraduate Adviser:

Cumulative GPA: _____ Major GPA: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Please include a statement of sponsorship:

Sponsoring faculty's signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Undergraduate Chair's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicants Please Note! The application for the English Honors Program must include the following items:

- A detailed prospectus* of the project. This is a two or three page list of proposed relevant readings.
- A statement of faculty sponsorship in the space provided above.

The application is considered complete when the Undergraduate Staff Advisor has received these items. Then Undergraduate Committee will review the application and, generally within two weeks, they will determine the student's admission to the English Honors Program.

*The Undergraduate Staff Advisor provides examples of the prospectus and thesis format on request.