

Educational Honors Program Guidelines

Eligibility

Honors in Education involves both the demonstration of acquired knowledge and a report on an original research project. The appropriateness of Honors work in Education for a given student is determined by reference to both GPA and faculty recommendation. The College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program requires an overall GPA of 3.5 or above. In most cases the student would be expected to have a higher grade performance in Education coursework than this minimum. Specific questions about eligibility or requirements should be addressed to the Departmental Honors Coordinator (Professor Elmesky, relmesky@wustl.edu).

Time Schedule

Students interested in working for Honors need to select an Education faculty member willing to support and supervise their Honors project. This may be as early as the sophomore year; but no later than April 15th of the junior year. Students must bring a copy of their current transcript to their supervisor demonstrating that they have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Once an Honors topic has been agreed upon with the faculty supervisor, the student should prepare a brief proposal (1 to 2 pages), with a beginning literature list attached. The proposal should:

- 1) Identify the topic, problem, or question to be investigated
- 2) Describe how the research project will be pursued (include a timetable of activities)
- 3) Identify relevant literature to begin reading over the summer

The 1-2 page proposal should be submitted to the Honors Thesis Coordinator by **May 1**. Once the proposal is approved by the supervising faculty member and the Honors Coordinator, the student can proceed with Honors work and enroll in Education 404. (Students may enroll for two semesters in Education 404 in order to secure appropriate credit for the study and research involved in an Honors thesis.)

Over the summer, students will spend time reading the literature they have decided on in conjunction with their supervising faculty member.

Complete honors thesis proposals (5 pages) are due no later than **September 21st** of the senior year. The entire Honors committee will read proposals submitted at this time. The Honors committee will give feedback on research design, literature, methodologies, and other aspects of the proposal to the faculty member advising the honors thesis.

By **January 30th** of the senior year, the student must inform the Honors Coordinator of the thesis title and her or his intention to complete the thesis that semester, so that the student can be properly registered with the University as an Honors candidate. Near the completion of the project, the faculty supervisor and the Honors Coordinator will identify at least two examiners who will read and evaluate the thesis. A defensible draft of the

thesis must be completed and a copy given to each examiner **no later than March 10**. The examiners meet to discuss the thesis, and make their recommendations to the Department on the level of Honors to be awarded, no later than **March 20**.

The level of Honors is determined with reference to both GPA and quality of the thesis. Assuming a solid thesis, the level of Honors is linked to the following minimum GPA's: 3.50-3.64 for Cum laude; 3.65-3.79 for Magna cum laude; and 3.80-4.00 for Summa cum laude. The level of Honors may, however, vary at the discretion of the examiners, depending on the quality of the thesis. The final copy of the thesis, with all changes required by the examining committee, is due **April 15**.

For students completing Honors work in the fall semester

The same procedure applies but with dates changed:

- Submission of proposal before November 1 of the preceding year;
- Honors Coordinator notified of thesis title and the intent to complete Honors thesis no later than September 30
- Copies of thesis to examiners by November 10;
- Decision of examiners to Department by November 20;
- Final copy of thesis due by December 10.

Thesis Format

The student is required to supply the Department with a final copy of the thesis to be filed in the Education library. This copy must use the university's official format for Ph.D. theses (available from the Education Department secretary), and must be bound in the official A.M./Ph.D. covers required for university theses which can be obtained at the W.U. bookstore. The thesis follows standard bibliographic and citation techniques appropriate to the relevant discipline. It is customary to provide the thesis supervisor with a final copy of the thesis.

April, 2004