

Honors College Prospectus Guidelines

Approved by Faculty Advisory Council, December, 2019

Required at the end of HON 301 or by the end of the student's junior year, whichever comes first, the prospectus represents the plan for the senior thesis project and will serve as a "contract" for conduct, completion and evaluation of the project. Although a binding agreement, the student, dean, and mentor may work together to modify the prospectus, as required, to accommodate unexpected results, new opportunities or techniques, or other circumstances. The prospectus should contain the following elements, which also serve as a template and starting point for the final written presentation of the project. Note: the entire prospectus will total approximately 20 pages, with the body requiring 10 to 15 double-spaced pages.

Front Matter (2 to 5 pages):

- Title page
- Mentor Mentee Contract and Approval page (format will be provided by the Dean), will include mentor/mentee agreement; planning for two additional committee members; understanding of thesis defense and Showcase requirement

Body (10 to 15 double-spaced pages):

- Background/Introduction - A presentation of the context and rationale for the project focus. This section should be supported by appropriate citations from the primary literature in a style and format customary to the discipline.
- Literature Review. The project should include at least ten relevant sources.
- Project Question, Hypothesis (-es) or Objectives - clearly present the focus of the project.
- Methods or Approach - How will you investigate and test the hypothesis or achieve the objectives? Should include citations from the literature, as appropriate.
- Project Outcome - What are anticipated results or the scholarly product of the project? What will be the format of the public presentation?

Back Matter (pages as needed):

- Bibliography of "References Cited" in a style and format appropriate to the discipline.
- Citations for two model projects, at least one of which is one academic article.
- Project Timeline - Provide a reasonable calendar outline of project benchmarks, achievements and completion.
 - include at least seven dated benchmarks per semester, including significant research stages and goals for drafting of the thesis,
 - set a date for finalizing the additional two committee members
 - a suggested week during which you will defend--plan for at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester during which you expect to graduate and include the likely date of your Showcase (the Friday before your graduation date)
- Resource Needs – detailed budget for supplies and materials, equipment, space, logistical support and any other requirements to complete and present the project.