

Honors in Research Checklist – CALS

Name _____ Major _____ ID# _____

The requirements identified in each of the sections below are recommended to fulfill the expectation (noted in parentheses). Appeals for substitutions to the requirements must be made by the honors advisor and student to the Honors Committee of the College in 116 Agriculture Hall. Such appeals must explain in detail how the student has met the expectations of the section or sections under appeal. Decisions of the Honors and Undergraduate Research Committee are final.

By the end of the 1st year: Students should find a mentor and get involved in a research project.

Objective	Evidence
<p>In year one you learn about how the research process works.</p> <p>Requirement: Become familiar with common research tools, language and processes. You must identify a mentor and become engaged in a research activity that might include: assigned reading, beginning laboratory or field work or some mixture of these elements. There should be frequent interactions with the mentor or the research group associated with the mentor.</p>	<p>Prepare a one page report to the Honors Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall that identifies the mentor, the general area of study, activities in which you are engaged, and have the faculty mentor countersign. This letter should be received by the Academic Student Affairs office by no later than April 15.</p> <p>Format and suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter your name, ID#, Major, Mentor, Mentor Department 2. Tell us the general area/s of study for your research group: e.g. role of stem cells in disease prevention; the genetic bases of diabetes; effect of storm water runoff on lake toxicity; movements of wolf populations using remote sensing; demographic change in rural areas of Wisconsin. 3. Tell us what you have done so far: e.g. reading literature to become more informed; learning basic laboratory procedures; learning to use specific techniques and protocols for the laboratory; being a part of working group seminars or journal clubs. 4. Sign your name and enter the date. 5. Have your mentor sign and the letter. 6. Bring your summary to the Honors Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall by April 15.

By the end of the 2nd year the student conduct an introductory research project.

Objective	Evidence
<p>In year two you should understand the background of a particular issue or question and develop tools to study an issue.</p> <p>Requirement: For experimental sciences this might involve reading the scientific literature, but primary emphasis is on developing laboratory skills through interaction with the faculty and other scientists. In the social sciences it might involve reading the literature, as well as beginning the types of data acquisition and analysis or other personal involvement appropriate to the discipline. Near the end of the year, the student should present their results in a appropriate research forum to an informed audience such as a poster session at a local meeting or symposium, or an oral presentation to the mentor's research group.</p>	<p>By the April 15 of the sophomore year, the student must submit a 1-2 page letter to the Chair of the CALS Honors and Undergraduate Research Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall, countersigned by the mentor, that describes the following: their progress and accomplishments, the mechanism used to satisfy the requirement for presentation of their results to a larger community, and a brief description of the plans for the following year.</p>

	<p>Format and suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter your name, ID#, Major, Mentor, Mentor Department 2. Briefly identify and describe the research skills you learned this last year. (e.g. techniques for analysis; specific understandings from reading literature, seminar participation, etc.). These might include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Independent study 299 or 289 under direction of your mentor; • A project that is not for course credit is equally good but you'll need to provide a description of what you did. • Some courses have a research activity included. One is Inter Ag 250 (Undergraduate Research Experience), but you need to be admitted to the Undergraduate Research Scholars program first. Contact this program in the College of Letters and Sciences first (Dean Akua Sarr asarr@wisc.edu; or 262-2583). Another is Bot/Zoo 152 PLUS an independent project (either 289 or 299). 3. Present this project to an informed group such as (you will need to let the Honors Committee know the setting you have chosen): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a forum for a course you took; • a lab group seminar; • a departmental seminar; • the College Undergraduate research symposium; • the University Undergraduate Symposium; • a professional scientific meeting. 4. Have your mentor's countersign the letter. Bring it to the Honors Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall by April 15.
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By the end of the 3rd year: Show involvement in a community of science.

Objectives	Evidence
<p>Identification of a specific problem or interest that the student will focus on during their senior thesis work. (Submit a brief description of your thesis proposal.)</p>	<p>The student must submit a five-page document, countersigned by their mentor, to the Chair of the CALS Honors and Undergraduate Research Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall that contains the following information: A brief summary of past research accomplishments, a short background to the focus of the senior thesis, and an outline of the proposed research. This document must be received by April 15 of the student's junior year (or November 15 for students graduating in the fall). As part of your report in the above section, be sure to include a brief description of your proposed thesis research. This becomes a part of your honors portfolio.</p>
<p>Requirements:</p> <p>Inter-Ag 388 (Only offered in the Fall semester) OR In disciplines where the specific focus on Inter-Ag 388 is not appropriate, the student should participate in an activity external to their research experience that helps them grow as scientists. In this case, students must describe how this experience provides similar professional growth. OR If it is not possible to participate in Inter-Ag 388, briefly describe activities that make you apart of an ongoing research community.</p>	<p>Format and suggestions (5pp max):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter your name, ID#, Major, Mentor, Mentor Department 2. Give a very brief description of your research accomplishments to date. 3. If you didn't take Inter-Ag 388, briefly describe your activities that made you a part of an ongoing research community: e.g. weekly seminars your attended; scientific talks from guests that you attended; journal clubs you participated in; any lab team leadership role you played; etc. 4. Tell us your plans for your senior thesis, include a short description of the topic and an outline of the proposed research. 5. Have your mentor's countersign the proposal. Bring it to the Honors Committee in 116 Agriculture Hall by April 15.

By the end of the final year of study: To complete a senior honors thesis under the direction of a mentor.

Objective	Evidence
<p>Show that you have developed the abilities to conduct independent scholarship which addresses a specific problem or issue in your discipline.</p>	<p>Courses 681/682 are designated as Senior Honors thesis. The research experience is a year-long effort for 2-4- cr. each semester. Completion of 681 results in a grade of Progress (P) and once you complete 682 successfully in the following semester the grade awarded automatically changes the 681 to match.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Some departments do not have these courses and an appropriate alternative is 699 for 2-4 cr. in each semester. However, if this is your option, you need to send an email or note to the Academic Student Affairs office that says this is what you are doing and your mentor needs to verify by signature or separate email that this is the case. For this arrangement, a normal letter grade is awarded in each semester.</p>
<p>Requirements :</p> <p>Senior Honors Thesis 681 (semester 1) 2-4 cr OR Independent study 699 2-4 cr.</p> <p>Senior Honors Thesis 682 (semester 2) 2-4 cr. OR independent study 699 2-4 cr.</p>	<p>Format and suggestions:</p> <p>1. The Office of Academic Affairs for the College will work with the Honors Committee to audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of Thesis course work • completion of Senior Research Colloquium (Inter Ag 488) • achievement of minimum GPA (3.25). • presentation thesis to an appropriate setting. <p>2. Submit 2 copies of your senior thesis approved and signed by your advisor/mentor to the Associate Dean for Academic Student Affairs by the commencement date in your final semester.</p> <p>3. Present the results of your thesis in an appropriate setting (you will need to let the Honors Committee know the setting you have chosen):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a forum for a course you took; • a lab group seminar; • a senior/graduate seminar • a departmental seminar; • the College Undergraduate research symposium; • the University Undergraduate Symposium; • a professional scientific meeting.
<p>Inter-Ag 488 Research Colloquium (Fall semester offering only!)</p>	

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