

Judson College Academic Catalog

Honors Program

Overview

The Judson College Honors Program provides an opportunity for students to undertake scholarly, independent, original research that exceeds the graduation requirements for the academic major. The Honors Program project allows the student to explore an intellectual interest and to present findings to the College community. The Program offers the qualified student many benefits and will designate her as one of the top scholars within her graduating class.

Students in the Honors Program are guided by faculty sponsors who support participants in designing research activities to successfully complete the Program. By engaging in the Honors Program, qualified students develop an understanding of research practices for their fields of study. Program participants conceptualize an informed, well-reasoned response to a question or problem and effectively communicate the results through a written report and an oral presentation.

During the Honors Program, students may be assigned a carrel in the library and may have materials assigned indefinitely to that carrel. Upon successful completion of the Program, students receive recognition during commencement, and “Degree with Distinction” is indicated on the official transcript. No credit hours or grades are awarded for the work performed, nor does the project count toward degree completion.

Faculty members are encouraged to invite qualified students to participate in the Honors Program and are notified of the nomination deadlines by the Honors Committee Chair at the onset of every fall and spring semester.

The Honors Committee, comprised of at least one member from each academic division, appointed by the Vice President and Academic Dean and approved by the President of the College, directs the Honors Program and ensures its academic integrity. The Honors Committee adheres to the qualifications and procedures for the Honors Program; however, in rare cases, the Honors Committee may make exceptions to the qualifications and procedures for the Program.

Qualifications

To enroll in the Honors Program, a student must have earned a 3.5 GPA and be nominated by a faculty sponsor who will serve as the project chair. A student may enroll at any time after completing a minimum of 30 semester hours but no later than the Academic Calendar mid-term date of the first semester of her senior year. The Academic Calendar will indicate important Honors Program dates and will serve as a guide to the faculty project chair, additional faculty sponsor(s), student, and Honors Committee.

Throughout the Honors Program the student must maintain a 3.5 GPA. Should a student’s final GPA drop below 3.5, she will be removed from the Honors Program and will not receive the

commencement recognition or transcript distinction. If a student fails any course, the class must be retaken to receive a higher grade.

Procedures

1. The faculty sponsor nominates a qualified student for the Honors Program by submitting to the Honors Committee Chair a signed nomination letter printed on official Judson College letterhead. The letter should state the faculty sponsor's rationale for nominating the student, the topic of the student's intended project, the student's current GPA, and a listing of the additional faculty sponsor(s) (up to three additional faculty members).

The nominating faculty sponsor will act as the student's project chair and will communicate with the Honors Committee Chair on behalf of the student (i.e., submit prospectus, submit final paper, coordinate dates, etc.). During each phase of the project, the faculty project chair is responsible for ensuring that the body of work created by the student is acceptable, approved by the other faculty sponsors(s), and appropriate for submission to the Honors Committee.

2. By the College Academic Calendar mid-term date of the first semester of the student's senior year, the project chair will submit the student's prospectus to the Honors Committee Chair. The prospectus will include the title of the research project, the thesis to be sustained, the preliminary review of the literature, the methodology to be employed, the style guide to be followed, the estimated timeline of the project, and the names of at least two, but no more than four, sponsoring faculty members, one who has already been designated as the project chair. The prospectus will become a guiding document for successfully completing the project.
3. The Honors Committee will review the student's prospectus and request revisions, as needed. The prospectus will be judged for evidence that the project addresses an original research question and sufficiently describes the intended research process. Research involving human subjects will be subject to further review before approval of the project. After the Honors Committee has approved the prospectus, the student will be formally admitted into the Honors Program.
4. In preparation for the mid-project oral report, the student will continue to research following the guidelines outlined in the prospectus.
5. The student will present a mid-project oral report to the Committee, her project chair, and her faculty sponsor(s) on the final day of the spring term for December degree completion, and on the final day of the fall term for June degree completion. The mid-project oral report will include a review of the thesis, a review of the literature, an explanation of the methodology, and a discussion of the student's findings based on current progress. The student should orally present the timeline of intended actions between the mid-project oral report and the final submission of the research project.

6. The faculty project chair will submit to the Honors Committee Chair the student's complete research project eight weeks before the final day of classes for the term in which the student is completing her degree. The Honors Committee will review the report and offer any suggestions for revision prior to the final oral report. When possible, the Honors Committee will additionally submit the project for external review by a member of the student's academic discipline outside of the College.
7. The student will present her research project to the Honors Committee, faculty project chair, faculty sponsor(s), and the Judson community in a public forum six weeks before the final day of December classes for December degree completion or six weeks before the June graduation date for spring or summer degree completion. The oral presentation will include a review of the thesis, a review of the literature, an explanation of the methodology, and a discussion of the student's findings with considerations for further research. If the student has prepared a creative, artistic, or multimedia performance, then she will present this portion of her research in the same forum.
8. To complete the Honors Program the student must submit a final draft of the research project for Committee signatures no later than the Academic Calendar last day of classes in the May Block of Short Term; this date applies regardless of the date of the degree completion. If the student chooses to have her research project bound, then she is responsible for cost of the binding. The completed and bound copy of the research project will become part of the Bowling Library collection. A copy of all material pertaining to the project (art work, performance recordings, media material, etc.) will be retained by Judson College until media duplication can be arranged. The publication becomes the property of Judson College.
9. Upon successful completion of all Honors Program requirements, the Honors Committee Chair will inform the Registrar of the student's Honors Program completion. The student will receive recognition during commencement, and "Degree with Distinction" will be recorded on the student's transcript.