

the  
honors  
program

# MARIST

## Honors Senior Project Proposal Information

The requirements for the Honors Program dictate that you must complete Honors Ethics and, **one Honors Seminar from each of the following five categories**: Honors Versions of the Self, Honors Art of Culture, Honors Hudson River Valley Studies, Honors Global Engagement, and Honors Science, Technology, and Society. You must maintain a 3.500 GPA overall and earn a grade of B or better in each of the Honors seminars. And finally, you must complete an Honors Senior Project.

**The proposal for your Honors Senior Project must be approved in advance by the Director of Honors. Please take note of the following deadlines:**

Graduation Date	Application Due Date
December 2011	<i>Please see the Director immediately if you have not yet submitted a proposal.</i>
May 2012	May 1, 2011
December 2012	December 1, 2011

The parameters for the Honors Senior Project are very flexible and are designed to be malleable so as to make this project applicable to any discipline. The main goal is to give you the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor on an in-depth project that is of special interest to you. The Director or other members of the Honors Council will be happy to discuss any ideas that you might have.

The Project can stem from a variety of sources: your curiosity is sparked by a discussion in an Honors seminar; you want to extend the results of an experiment or project from your research methods class, your Capping project or an REU; you have the opportunity to enroll in an independent study project as part of the requirements for honors in your major. There are many options.

The project does not have to be a written essay, but rather may take a form appropriate to each individual's interests and disciplinary requirements. For example, the project may be a research essay, laboratory experiment/project, multimedia presentation, advertising campaign, etc.

With faculty approval, this project may stem from prior upper level coursework, *but it must be a significant extension or revision of that initial assignment*. If you choose to extend the research in a previously completed paper or project, then you need to request and obtain the permission of the faculty member who assigned it. The same policy applies to projects submitted for honors in your major. *The faculty member must indicate their consent to the Honors Director in writing or via email.*

The Honors Senior Project will be submitted to the Honors Council for review approximately six weeks before the end of the semester in which the student will complete his or her degree requirements and will be part of an Honors Symposium held at the end of each academic year. For those of you with a May completion date, the Project will be submitted to the Honors Council approximately six weeks before the end of the Spring semester.

**You should fill out the Project application form by the appropriate deadline. Your proposal should include a typewritten document with the following information:**

- ~ general introductory information about project, including origin of idea
- ~ aims and objectives
- ~ rationale for the project
- ~ project form—essay, media, advertising campaign, portfolio, etc.
- ~ value of project to you and your field
- ~ budget for materials, etc. (including shipping costs)

**You must arrange for a faculty member at Marist to be your project mentor.** You are expected to meet with your faculty mentor on a regular basis throughout your final year. The Honors Council, in conjunction with the faculty mentor, will assess the Senior Honors Project on the basis of the following criteria, not all of which may apply to every project:

- ~ Written (and/or oral) expression of logical arguments
- ~ Breadth of research
- ~ Use of evidence in support of idea, experiment, etc.
- ~ Use of effective public speaking techniques
- ~ Scope and depth of project
- ~ Technical sophistication
- ~ Extent of creative risks taken

**Three semesters prior to graduation, you should begin this process by doing the following:**

- ~ Compile a list of the Honors Seminars (and course numbers) you have taken thus far, along with the semesters taken, and grades received;
- ~ Think about a project topic that interests you, and a faculty member with whom you would like to work;
- ~ Talk with that faculty member to find out if he or she is willing to be your mentor;
- ~ Work with your mentor to write the proposal;
- ~ Sign your proposal;
- ~ Have your faculty mentor sign your proposal;
- ~ Submit the proposal to the Honors Director for approval by the appropriate deadline.

**Sample project proposals from previous years:**

**Title:** Effect of Misinformation on Memory Recall in Relation to Eyewitness Testimony

**Academic Major:** Psychology

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Project Form:** Essay and poster with experiment materials, charts, and graphs

**Origination:** Extension of previous research project

**Title:** Cheating Practices of Marist College Students

**Academic Major:** Communications and Psychology

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Psychology

**Project Form:** Paper and poster

**Origination:** Extension of previous psychology project

**Title:** An Examination of the Ethical and Moral Issues in Veterinary Medicine

**Academic Major:** Biochemistry

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Physics

**Project Form:** 15-20 page essay

**Title:** Don Quijote Interpretation

**Academic Major:** Math Ed and Spanish

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Spanish

**Project Form:** Brochure with articles and short essays in English and Spanish and PowerPoint presentation

**Origination:** Versions of the Self: Don Quijote and his Legacy

**Title:** Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Feminism in Ridley Scott's *Thelma & Louise* and *G.I. Jane*

**Academic Major:** Radio/Television & Film and Journalism

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Communications

**Project Form:** Paper

**Origination:** Extension of research paper for Film Theory and Criticism

**Title:** Seismology & Signal Processing

**Academic Major:** Applied Mathematics

**Dept. of Faculty Sponsor:** Mathematics

**Project Form:** Paper

**Origination:** Original research as part of an Honors in Mathematics project