

ARCH 499 Honors Undergraduate Research/Study Proposal

Introduction

To earn Department of Architecture honors, an independent honors research project must be proposed, accepted by a Departmental Faculty member, and completed before graduation, typically in the last quarter of study. The idea of the independent study format is to allow students to explore an area of interest to them, and take leadership of following a course of independent research and production, primarily on their own but with guidance from a Faculty Advisor who will advise and direct them during the term as needed. The independent study should come from a subject that the student been exposed to in a previous course and that can be built upon in new, original research.

What is the final product required for Honors Independent Study?

The project must be a well-researched, well-documented and well-written project that typically results in a 12-15 page paper, but can also have a partial written and partial graphic component if the subject matter is suitable. It is not a design project, but a well-researched and written piece of scholarship that represents the advanced thinking, research and writing skills representative of an honors student.

What topic is appropriate?

Any topic is fine, but the project should build upon something you have studied in your coursework so you have some knowledge of the subject matter. The best subjects might build upon a subject you are interested in that you learned about but due to the course content or timeframe weren't able to explore to your satisfaction. Keep the topic simple, research the availability of information before you propose it, and make sure your resources are available.

How should I write my proposal?

Your proposal should be researched ahead of time for sources, and should be written in an inquiring, detailed manner, rather than in a vague, broad sense. For example, you might propose "My research will look at the history and emerging technology of thin-shelled concrete structures in the United States from 1920-1980" rather than "I will research the history of thin-shelled concrete structures" or "I will compare and contrast the geometric-themed forms in the designs of the McGregor Memorial Conference Center and the US Science Pavilion (Seattle Science Center) by Minoru Yamasaki" rather than "I will write about the McGregor Memorial Conference Center and The US Science Pavilion by Minoru Yamasaki".

What is the schedule for Honors Independent Study?

By the Fourth week of Winter Quarter: Complete Research Proposal, begin task of formally asking Faculty Advisors who best suit the project you are considering.

Hint: discuss the possibility of the independent study with faculty ahead of time to gauge interest and availability. This may affect your subject matter, so it's best to ask early.

By the Seventh week of Winter Quarter: Have Faculty Advisor commitment for Spring and turn form into Kim Sawada.

The First Week of Spring Quarter: Turn in outline of project to Faculty Advisor.

Throughout Spring Quarter as needed: Meet with Advisor at least 4 times for advising and to set draft and final due dates.

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Student Name _____ **Student #** _____

Email _____

Proposed Faculty Supervisor _____ **Quarter** _____ **Credits** _____

Research Title (proposed, can change later)
Please attach a 250 word description of your proposal. Include a properly formatted bibliography, with a minimum of 5 sources, including at least two books and/or journals.

APPROVED (signatures):

Faculty Supervisor (Printed Name) _____ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

Undergraduate Advisor _____ **Date** _____