The Research Honors Program at Marietta College

What is a Research Honors thesis and why should I do one?

A Research Honors thesis is a major academic project completed during one’s senior year that represents a level of intellectual accomplishment and scholarship clearly above that expected of other graduates in the discipline. This project is frequently a 30-60-page research paper, an applied work, or an artistic creation. A project that begins with a summer Investigative Studies grant or as part of a capstone course may be developed into an Honors thesis. In order to be eligible, a student must have at least 80 credit hours completed. The student must also have a cumulative grade point average of 3.300 overall and 3.300 within the relevant major or minor to pursue Research Honors.

A student who completes a thesis garners the distinct prestige of a Research Honors designation on his or her official transcript. In addition, that student is offered a unique opportunity to work with faculty members of his or her choosing on a topic of his or her choosing. The experience of Honors research can serve as an excellent bridge between the work that students complete at MC and the work that will be expected of them in graduate school and/or in their careers. In addition, all theses are published on the OhioLINK databases; therefore, completing an Honors project at MC is a sure-fire way of becoming an author!

How to find past Marietta College Honors Theses on OhioLINK

If you would like to find recent Honors theses online, you can check them out through our library’s homepage. From the library homepage, click on the “OhioLINK Home” link. From there, click on the “ETD Center” link, and then on “Browse ETDs by school and department.” From there, you simply scroll down to “Marietta College Honors Theses.” The other “Marietta College” link will take you to our school’s graduate theses. On the “Marietta College Honors Theses” page you will find papers from various disciplines. You can download the entire projects from this site and see for yourself what goes into a thesis.

Where to get more information about Research Honors

Specific information on the Research Honors Program is available on-line at the Honors Program website:

http://www.marietta.edu/Academics/resources/honors_program/research_honors.html

Guidelines for writing the proposal and thesis are available on this website in the “Research Honors Thesis Guide Fall 2012” document, which can be found under the Program Forms menu.
Research Honors Fall 2012/Spring 2013 Timetable

Fall Semester 2012

Informational meeting:
Monday, September 3 at 12:00pm in Bartlett Hall room 362.
Attendance is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.

Intent form due from candidate to David Brown (*must be signed by advisor)*:
By Friday, September 7 by 5:00pm

Draft of the proposal due to advisor and second reader (if one has been named):
Negotiate this date with your advisor. Each candidate must meet with his or her advisor for a substantive discussion of the proposal before September 21. By the time the draft reaches the HISC, it should clearly articulate the feasibility, method(s), and goals of the project.

Draft of the proposal from candidate due to David Brown, signed by advisor:
By Friday, September 28 at 5:00pm

The candidate will have received formative feedback on proposal draft from the HISC, in consultation with the candidate’s advisor:
By Friday, October 5.

Candidate registers for 1-3 hours of “DEPT” 493: Research Honors for the semester in which they will complete the thesis. Be sure to submit a learning contract to the Records Office with your advisor listed as the instructor.

Candidate submits final proposal to thesis committee and David Brown:
By Friday, November 9.

Last day for candidate to present an oral summary of the proposal to his/her thesis committee. The committee may ask the candidate to undertake some additional revision:
By Friday, November 16.

After the thesis committee decides whether to accept or reject the proposal and communicates that decision to the candidate, a letter of decision from thesis advisor is due to David Brown:
By Friday, November 26.
Spring Semester 2013

Candidate meets thesis committee to discuss his/her progress and confirm/slightly revise his/her timeline for completion:
By Friday, February 22.

Thesis advisor sends David Brown a letter (an email message is acceptable) confirming the committee meeting and reporting progress on the project:
By Friday, March 1.

Candidate sends a complete draft of the thesis to his/her committee:
One week prior to thesis defense

All Scholars Day, April 12, 2013 - Honors thesis candidates are expected to present a summary of their thesis project at All Scholars Day. If it is acceptable to their thesis committee, this presentation may be considered part of the thesis defense.

The last day to hold a thesis defense: By Monday, April 15.

Thesis advisor informs David Brown in writing whether the thesis has been approved, provisionally approved, or rejected by the thesis committee:
As soon as possible after the defense

Electronic file of thesis with hard copy of signed approval page due from candidate to David Brown:
By 12:00pm on Monday, April 22
Intent Form - Intent to Submit a Proposal for a Research Honors Thesis

Name ________________________________________________
Local Mailing Address ___________________________________
Local Phone _______________ E-Mail ___________________________
Expected Graduation Date ____________________________
Discipline (major or minor) in which Research Honors is being sought:
________________________________________________________________
Advisor for thesis (signature required): ____________________________
Printed name: ____________________________

Return to: Dr. David Brown, Biology/Environmental Science, by Friday, September 7 before 5:00pm.