

SENIOR HONORS RESEARCH PROGRAM

Overview

The Senior Honors Research program was established in 1930 and was the first such program in a Virginia college or university. The program is intended to encourage students to conduct independent research at a level well beyond the ordinary demands of a classroom course. The results of a student's successful completion of the program are increased learning in a subject area of special interest, improvements in the student's abilities to conduct academic research and to write about the work, the presentation of a substantial paper on that research, the addition of that paper to the Library's permanent collection, and an enhancement of his or her application to graduate school or for immediate post-graduation employment. Students who successfully complete the program are publicly recognized at graduation for their exceptional academic achievement. Completion of the project requires that students enroll in two consecutive 3-credit courses, typically during the fall and spring of senior year.

To be eligible to register for Senior Honors Research, a student must have:

- a strong interest in doing independent research
- a 3.0 overall grade point average on work taken at Longwood
- a 3.0 average in courses taken at Longwood for the major
- agreement of a faculty member to serve as sponsor
- permission of the chair of the sponsoring department
- permission of the SHR Committee
- Note: A student may NOT be registered for Senior Honors Research during the same semester in which he or she is registered for student teaching or for more than nine credit hours in an internship program. However, at the discretion of the Senior Honors Research (SHR) Committee, a student's two Senior Honors Research semesters may surround a semester of student teaching or such internship.

Student Responsibilities and Timeline for Completion

Further information about requirements and procedures for completing Senior Honors Research can be found at www.longwood.edu/seniorhonors. Any deviation from the following timeline requires prior approval from the SHR committee chair.

1. Select a faculty sponsor no later than the spring of the junior year.
2. In consultation with the faculty sponsor, develop a research topic and prepare a research proposal. Proposals should not exceed 7-8 double-spaced pages (not including figures, tables, and bibliography). **The proposal must include:**
 - Identification of the student, faculty sponsor, and academic discipline(s) involved.
 - A statement of the guiding hypothesis or argument.

- A summary of the reasons for and significance of the research, including a short literature review indicating how the project contributes to scholarship in the field.
- A brief description of the research method or approach to be followed.
- A summary of the more prominent resources (or at least the types of resources) to be used and where they are located. If the use of any type of research equipment is expected, specify the type of equipment and how it will be used to test the hypothesis. If the sources include published or unpublished texts, attach a tentative working bibliography.
- A timeline for completion of significant milestones. This may include deadlines for collection of data or research, completion of drafts, etc.
- The names of at least three credentialed scholars in the field who are reasonably expected to be voting members of the examination committee. At least two of the members shall be from the Longwood faculty. It is recommended that the third member not be a member of the Longwood faculty.
- Approval of the chair of sponsoring department (via an email to the SHR Committee chair).

3. Two weeks prior to the end of spring classes, submit the proposal electronically to the chair of the SHR Committee, who will then distribute the file to the other members.

4. Present the proposal to the SHR Committee during exam week. During the proposal defense, be prepared to summarize the research project orally and answer questions about it. The faculty sponsor is expected to be present at this meeting. The chair of the sponsoring department may also attend. If approved, student should proceed to step 6. If the SHR committee requests revisions or resubmission of the proposal, student should proceed to step 5.

5. If requested by the SHR committee, deliver any changes, revisions, or resubmitted proposals to the SHR chair no later than one full week prior to the beginning of fall semester. During the first week of classes, any student asked to resubmit presents the revised proposal to the SHR committee.

6. If the proposal is approved by the Committee, register for SHR credit ("498" in the relevant discipline) for the fall semester.

7. Conduct research according to the approved proposal. Make progress reports to the sponsor on a regular basis. A grade of at least "A-" in 498 is required in order to continue work on the SHR project into a second semester and register in 499.

8. In consultation with the faculty sponsor, the examination committee, and the SHR committee liaison, schedule an oral defense of the project to take place no later than the first week of April. The written component of the project (Senior Honors Research Paper) must be completed and submitted prior to the oral defense for review by the examination committee.

9. If the examination committee and the full SHR Committee approve the work for SHR recognition at graduation, make any required corrections or additions to the SHR Paper and provide two copies to the Archives and Records Manager of the

Library for inclusion in the Library's permanent collection no later than the last day of classes in the spring semester.

Senior Honors Research Committee Members, 2012-2013

Frank Bacon, *Finance*
John Barbrey, *Criminal Justice*
Audrey Church, *Education and Special Education*
Scott Cole, *Political Science*
Alix Fink, *Honors Program/Biology, ex officio*
Blain Harrison, *Exercise Science*
Mary Lehman, *Biology*
Sarah Porter, *Chemistry, chair*
Kim Stern, *English*