

DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

Departmental Honors Requirements

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Art and Design Departmental Honors program is to provide advanced undergraduate students with a research experience in Art History, Art Education, Fine Art, or Interactive and Graphic Design. Students pursuing honors through the University Honors College can apply for departmental honors with the same applicable project or body of work.

2. COURSE AND CREDIT STRUCTURE:

A student in this program must enroll in ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 (Honors Independent Study) and ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 499 (Honors Senior Thesis) in different semesters for a total of at least 3 credits. Each of these courses may be taken more than once, for a maximum total of 4 credits each.

3. ELIGIBILITY:

The minimum eligibility requirements for ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 are

- a. Junior status in the Art and Design major, and
- b. the recommendation of an Art and Design faculty member who is willing to act as project supervisor and thesis advisor.
- c. 3.0 GPA
- d. Approval to pursue departmental honors from the Department of Art & Design

4. PERMISSIBLE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES include:

- a. original research results in an area of Art and Design.
- b. creative portfolio of new work from art and design not covered in a regular Art and Design Department course offering.
- c. The student's work must include a written thesis OR a portfolio of fine art or interactive and graphic design creative work, acceptable to the departmental honors committee and conclude with a public presentation of the results.

5. FACULTY SUPERVISION:

The quality and integrity of the program will be assured by faculty supervision in the following ways:

- a. A student wishing to participate in the program must obtain the support of a faculty member who is willing to act as their project supervisor.
- b. The student's project supervisor will
 - (1) assist in preparing and submitting the appropriate application materials;
 - (2) advise the student in selecting a topic and preparing a plan of study for ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489, meet regularly with the student over the duration of the project, provide appropriate direction as needed, and assign a grade in ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489;
 - (3) act as the student's thesis advisor in ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489, and chair of their thesis committee.
- c. The thesis committee will consist of the project supervisor and two or more additional persons nominated by the student and the project supervisor and approved by the department.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND APPROVAL PROCESS:

- a. A student wishing to participate in the departmental honors program may discuss the program with any faculty member of the department. The first step is to find a faculty member willing to act as their project supervisor. Together, they select and propose a topic for approval by the department. (In some cases, such as inter-departmental projects, there may be more than one project supervisor.)
- b. The student, together with their faculty advisor and proposed project supervisor(s), prepare a proposal to take ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 and submit it to the department. The proposal must include a written statement (approximately 2-4 paragraphs, minimum 250 words) that details what the student will accomplish during the course.
- c. Once the ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 project has been approved, the project supervisor oversees the student's work and assigns the final grade in ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489.
- d. To continue in the program and into ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 499, the student must earn a grade of B- or higher in ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 and be recommended by the project supervisor.

7. THESIS REGULATIONS, DEFENSE, EVALUATION:

- a. The thesis shall be a formal written thesis OR a portfolio of fine art or interactive and graphic design creative work representing the student's results, conforming to a standard professional format acceptable to the department.
- b. The written thesis shall contain:
 - (1) a statement of purpose;
 - (2) an appropriate background;
 - (3) a complete exposition of results and how they were obtained;
 - (4) conclusions;
 - (5) a bibliography (preferably annotated).

The creative portfolio shall consist of

- (1) 5-10 new works of Fine Art/Design OR one complex project (number determined in consultation with project supervisor).
 - (2) a statement (2-4 paragraphs/250-word minimum) that contextualizes and reflects on the work accomplished
 - (3) supporting documentation/evidence must be provided to the committee: ideation process, research, context of the work, and conclusions/impact/significance.
- c. A draft of the written thesis OR the supporting documentation for the creative work shall be given to the thesis committee members no later than three weeks prior to the student's graduation date. Committee members shall return the draft, with comments, to the student no later than one week after receiving it.
 - d. A revised copy of the written thesis OR the supporting documentation for the creative work shall be given to all thesis committee members no later than two days prior to the oral defense.
 - e. The oral defense of the thesis OR creative work shall occur no later than one week prior to the day of graduation. The date of this defense shall be set and made public no later than one week prior to the defense date. All thesis committee members shall receive written notice of the date, time, and location of the defense.
 - f. At the conclusion of the defense, the thesis committee shall determine whether the thesis qualifies for departmental honors and recommend a grade for ART/HNRS 499 OR DESN 499. A grade of B- or higher will be required for Departmental Honors.
 - g. The final revised thesis OR photographic documentation of the creative work shall be submitted to the project supervisor no later than one day prior to graduation.

8. EVALUATION, AND FINAL GRADE REQUIREMENTS:

To be awarded Departmental Honors in Art and Design at graduation, the student must have achieved:

- a. B- grades or higher in both ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 489 and ART/HNRS or DESN/HNRS 499.
- b. an overall Millersville QPA of 3.00 or higher.
- c. Millersville Art and Design QPA of 3.35 or higher.