

THE HONORS THESIS DEADLINE POLICY

The Honors Program sets a due date and time that applies to all senior theses and other projects submitted for Departmental Honors or Honors in General Scholarship. This deadline is strictly enforced, and exceptions will not be granted except via timely petitions to the Honors Committee for extensions or late submission. Consideration of petitions is governed by the following considerations:

1. Evaluation of Honors projects has a very tight schedule, and places significant burdens upon faculty at a busy time of the year. The Honors Program governs hundreds of students in a wide variety of departments and programs, and cannot consider delays in the submission of theses or other projects except for extraordinary reasons.
2. Honors projects have a 7-month timeline, and effective time management in a larger project is an integral part of the skills being developed and assessed. Projects spanning this much time inevitably encounter many obstacles, including illness, injury, demands of other courses, as well as conceptual or empirical challenges arising within the project. Students are expected to build considerable flexibility into their project to allow for the inevitable contingencies that arise.

For Studio Art majors, where an honors thesis is required for graduation, a petition can be submitted to the Studio Art Program for a vote by the faculty should illness prevent the timely completion of the thesis in the spring semester.

3. The Honors deadline only affects eligibility for one form of evaluation of a project. All students have the option to continue their project past the Honors deadline, and submit it for evaluation as a two-semester tutorial, without submitting it for Honors. In many cases, such an extension of the project is preferable for its educational value for the student, and for the integrity of the completed work.

The following further considerations apply specifically to petitions for late submission of a thesis, or extensions (in advance) of the Honors deadline, respectively:

A. Extension of the Honors Deadline (requested in advance)

Petitions for extensions of the Honors deadline must involve extraordinary considerations outside of the student's control that significantly hinder the student's ability for timely completion of an Honors project. Candidates should consult with their advisor prior to submitting a petition. The following further considerations also bear on whether such a petition would be acceptable to the Committee:

1. The Honors Committee will not consider petitions for extensions to the deadline if the project was not on pace at the time that issues arose that led to the petition; extensions for the deadline are not available to make up for a student's failure to set and keep to an appropriate schedule. An Honors project is not on pace unless it incorporates extensive opportunities for critical response by the student's tutor, and time for revision in response to that evaluation.

2. The scope and scale of Honors projects is not specified in advance. Students should plan the scope of their project in accord with what they can reasonably accomplish in a 7-month period, and should first consider adjustments in the scope or scale of the project as a response to any temporary difficulties that arise within the project.
3. Students who regularly need accommodations for disabilities that include additional time for the completion of assignments should consider petitioning the Honors Committee to allow an earlier start to their project, as well as adjustments to the scale of the project, before considering petitions to change the Honors deadline.
4. Petitions for extensions to the Honors deadline must be timely. If the student believes that an accommodation that includes an adjustment to the Honors deadline is required, that petition should be presented as soon as possible. The Honors Committee will not look favorably upon petitions for issues that arose much earlier, or whose effect should have been foreseeable.
5. Even in the most favorable cases, the Honors deadline could only be extended by at most a few days, due to the tight schedule for departmental evaluations. Any petition for an extension of the deadline must make clear how the extension requested would be used to enable the successful completion of a project, whose completion could not be accommodated in other ways.

B. Late Submission of Completed Theses

Petitions for Late Submission request short-term extensions of the Honors submission deadline due to technical difficulties with the on-line submission system, or other technical problems that prevent the formatting and submission of a completed thesis. Such petitions are not intended to enable additional substantive work on the project, and such work should not be undertaken by successful petitioners. Students are expected to have left ample time for formatting and submission. Successful petitions will normally need to show that problems arose despite having taken appropriate precautions, and for reasons that are largely outside of the student's control and could not have been prevented by reasonable foresight.