The Humanities Department offers students the opportunity to intensify and expand their undergraduate study by writing an Honors Thesis and graduating with Departmental Honors.

To apply for Honors in Humanities, one should
- usually have a general GPA of at least 3.3
- usually have a GPA in Humanities of at least 3.7

The Honors student must fulfill these requirements:
- Complete the *HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT HONORS APPLICATION FORM*
- Submit that form to and speak with the HUMANITIES HONORS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (Dr. Heydt-Stevenson: 221A Ketchum; 2-0017; jill.heydt@colorado.edu)
- Complete and submit the *APPLICATION PACKET FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS* to the Honors Office in Norlin M400L, by the required date (see *GRADUATION WITH HONORS DEADLINES*)
- Maintain a suitable GPA overall and in the major during the Honors year
- Write an Honors Thesis
- Defend the Honors Thesis in an oral exam

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Humanities Honors Council Representative:
The Honors Council Representative for Humanities serves on the Arts and Sciences Honors Council, the committee that oversees HONORS DESIGNATIONS. The Representative for Humanities is Dr. Heydt-Stevenson: she
- approves your *HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT HONORS APPLICATION FORM* and *APPLICATION PACKET FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS*
- provides additional information about the process of writing and DEFENDING a thesis
- possibly serves as your THESIS DIRECTOR or as a member of your committee
- can also help you locate a Thesis Director
- represents your interests at the Honors Council Meetings, where final designations are awarded
- Contacting her: phone: 492-0017; email: jill.heydt@colorado.edu; office: Ketchum 221A.

Thesis Director/Advisor:
If you write an Honors Thesis, you must have Thesis Director, sometimes referred to as an Advisor. This person, a faculty member from the Humanities Department (or, upon approval, from another department) will help you create a challenging and coherent personal course of study. You will need to consult regularly with your Director as you design and complete your project.

The Honors Thesis:
The thesis is a significant, extended essay – usually 35-50 pages – on a topic of the student’s own choosing. It should demonstrate ability in the following areas
- extensive research, critical thinking (close analysis of the texts), excellent writing skills
- interdisciplinarity: (lit. & art; art & music, film & lit, lit & theory, etc.)

Independent Study:
During the semester before or during the semester that you complete and defend your thesis, you may sign up for 3 hours of independent study with your Thesis Director to research and write your thesis. It is important that you sign up for this – just as you would for a normal class – the semester before you plan to write and or defend your thesis. Applications for Independent Study are available
in the Humanities Main Office:

**Examination Committee:**
This committee consists of three professors
- one of them is your Thesis Director
- one of them must be a member of the Arts and Sciences Honors Council
- one of them must be from a department outside of Humanities

They will read your thesis and ask you questions about it at your Oral Exam, called a *Defense*. The Honors Council Representative and/or your Thesis Director may have suggestions about who could serve on this committee. You will need to contact these people at least by the beginning of the semester you defend your thesis. All members read the thesis, attend the exam, question the student, and vote on the honors recommendation or *Designation*.

**Mechanical Guidelines:**
- Your name and the title of your thesis should appear on each page
- The thesis must be bound in a flat, as opposed to spiral form
- Two copies of the thesis must be turned into the Honors Program: one copy is bound and must include an abstract of not more than 250 words; the other is not bound
- You and your advisor should choose what form of citation (MLA versus Chicago; endnote versus footnotes) you decide is best.

**Defending the Thesis:**
After you complete your thesis, you will need to “defend” your thesis in an oral exam conducted by an Examination Committee.
- This generally lasts about one hour
- It is usually held in the Humanities Seminar Room in Ketchum or a Faculty member’s office.
- For Fall graduates, the defenses are held the first week of November; for Spring graduates, the defenses are held the first week in April. You will need to set up a date and time with your committee fairly early on. There are no defenses held in the Summer.
- Questions will focus on the Thesis but also will expect you to explore clearly and critically some ideas, authors, and texts not specifically covered in the thesis but pertaining to wider knowledge of the field in the area of the thesis
- These are rigorous, but *friendly*, exams

**Honors Designations:**
If you complete the thesis and pass your oral defense, you will be awarded one of three honors designations explained below (these are Latin terms that simply mean “with honors,” “with high honors,” “with highest honors”). The designation you should receive is dependent on the quality of the thesis and on your GPA. Please note that these are not rigid guidelines; for example, a person with a GPA of 3.3 could be awarded a magna if the thesis is especially outstanding.

* cum laude: generally awarded when you have an overall GPA of 3.3
* magna cum laude: overall GPA of 3.5
* summa cum laude: overall GPA of 3.8

**The Key to Success:**
Most students who elect to do Honors find it a challenging and rewarding experience. Success depends on starting early, working steadily and consistently, and meeting regularly with your Thesis Director.

**Award Banquet:**
For Honors students graduating in the spring term, there is an Honors Ceremony where you receive your Honors medal, walk across the stage, shake the Dean’s hand and enjoy a brunch provided for you, your parents, and friends.

*Form Current Sept 2003*