

Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

Application for Undergraduate Honors Projects

THEATER H195A/B

General Information

Please read the following material carefully before submitting your proposal for the Undergraduate Honors Project.

The Honors Project should be considered the centerpiece and the culmination of an outstanding undergraduate career in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies. Several projects are approved each year based on available resources and funds; but more importantly, these projects are approved in recognition of excellent work within the major and as the result of strong, engaging proposals. Projects can be accomplished through a Written Thesis-Only Option or Written Honors Essay and Production Option. Please note that acceptance of your Honors Project proposal does not guarantee the receipt of departmental honors upon graduation. In order to receive departmental honors, transfer students must accumulate a minimum of 60 units at Cal, and all students must meet the final departmental GPA and over-all GPA requirements as determined by the College of Letters and Sciences, as well as successfully complete H195A/B.

Eligibility and Requirements:

To apply for an Honors Project, a student must meet basic GPA requirements of a minimum over-all Cal GPA of 3.3.

The honors course, H195A/B, covers a full academic year, each semester carrying four units of credit. Credit cannot be awarded for one semester without the other. Both semesters must be taken for a letter grade.

The actual course content and format of the H195A/B sequence depend upon the student and the Faculty Supervisor(s). In the past, Honors Projects have encompassed directorial, choreography, design, performance, research, and playwriting projects.

At the time of making the proposal the student must have completed (or be in the process of taking) at least two of the three critical studies courses (i.e., Performance Literatures, Performance Theory, Performance and History, Performance and Culture) and provide evidence that these courses will be completed by the end of the first semester of the Honors Project in their proposal.

Specific disciplines (such as design, directing, choreography, etc.) carry with them certain expectations as to course work completed or to be completed. Detailed information on such expectations and on models for successfully proposing and completing the Honors Project is contained in this application packet.

All non-production proposals are due the 13th week of the semester before the Honors Project begins. CCN is processed by the 3rd week of the semester in which H195 begins.

Written Honors Thesis-Only Option:

The first semester: In this option, the student's Honors Project will consist solely of a written thesis. The first semester of the course will be an intensive critical study of some aspect of theater, dance, or performance studies. The semester culminates in drafting a detailed thesis proposal – a ten page precis of the thesis, followed by an annotated bibliography of studies consulted. This thesis proposal is due on the first day of the last week of class of the semester.

The Faculty Supervisor must approve the work completed, and approve the student to complete the thesis in the second semester. *Note: Students who do not complete the first semester, or whose work is not of passing quality, will not be allowed to proceed with the second semester of the course. Supervisors will notify students before the next semester begins if work has not been satisfactory.*

The second semester: In the second semester of this plan, the student will write the thesis developed in the first (research) semester. Midway through the second semester, the student will submit a draft of 40-60 pages to their committee (Faculty Supervisor and an additional Senate faculty member selected by the student), who will read and comment on the draft, leaving the student time to submit a final draft to the committee on the first day of the last week of class of the semester. This final draft will be the document on which the student receives a final grade for the thesis.

Under this option, it is understood that graduate students are not eligible to act as Faculty Supervisors; it is also understood that the Faculty Supervisor will remain the same for both semesters. Readers should be contacted as early as possible and be invited to sign off of their commitment to the second semester of the Honors Project as part of the original proposal.

Written Honors Essay And Production Option:

To be eligible for H195A/B with both a written thesis and a production component in **Theater**, you must have taken, or be currently enrolled in (i.e., at the time you submit the application) 60: Stagecraft and 162: Directing.

To be eligible for H195A/B with a production component in **Dance**, you must have taken, or be currently enrolled in (i.e., at the time you submit the application) 60: Stagecraft and 146A&B: Choreography.

The first semester of the course will be an intensive critical study of some aspect of theater, dance, or performance studies. This semester culminates in the writing of a 25-40 page critical, historical, and/or theoretical essay on your subject. This essay should consider a significant problem, and will be evaluated as a free-standing critical project – that is, the Honors Essay will be evaluated for its accomplishment as a critical text in its own terms, not only as a prolegomenon for the second-semester production project. This essay is due on the first day of the last week of class of the semester. *Note: Students who do not complete the first semester, or whose work is not of passing quality, will not be allowed to proceed with the second semester of the course.*

The second semester focuses on a performance/production project that engages with the honors essay, climaxing in the actual directing of a play, choreographing of a dance piece, designing of a production, writing of a play, etc. (The scope of the Honors Project is not necessarily limited to these areas. Students are encouraged to explore other possibilities with their Faculty Supervisor.)

Faculty Supervisors:

All proposals for Honors Projects must be accompanied a signed Faculty Supervisor agreement form and signed application. Students are encouraged to start discussing projects (both the possibilities and the limitations of what you envision) with potential Faculty Supervisors as early as possible. Students are required to submit and discuss a rough draft of their proposal with a Faculty Supervisor at least two weeks before the deadline for proposals (see below). Faculty Supervisors will **not** sign proposals that have not been reviewed with them before the deadline. Faculty Supervisors will then be responsible for presenting the proposal and answering questions from the H195 Committee and, if the project is approved, for monitoring the student's progress on a regular basis throughout the course.

In the case of the Honors Essay and Production Option, students may consider working with two Faculty Supervisors: one for the research work to be undertaken during the first semester; a second for the performance/production work to be undertaken during the second semester. In such cases, the student must confer with both faculty supervisors, and obtain both their signatures on the proposal form and supervision form. This option is not available for the Honors Thesis-Only Option.

Deadlines:

The Honors Project may be undertaken as a Fall/Spring or Spring/Fall project. (The Department is not able to accommodate a summer component to the Honors Project at this time.) Due to scheduling demands, project proposals must be submitted in the spring of the previous academic year.

Draft of Proposal to Faculty Supervisor(s): **Friday, February 7, 2014**

Final Proposal Due at 101 Dwinelle Annex: **by 4 PM on Friday, February 21, 2014**

Budgeting:

Financial support from the Department for production is minimal. This funding covers the cost of such items as flyers, photocopying, dry-cleaning of costumes, and performance rights to play-scripts. You will be expected to work in close consultation with the production manager on the cost of production and staying within budget.

Students intending to apply for additional funding, grants, etc. outside the Department must notify the Department at the time of their proposal. In consideration of the limited time of the theater shop staff, and in the spirit of maintaining equity of resources among student productions, *the Department retains the right to deny the use of outside funding sources.*

Technical Requirements:

Nearly all Honors Projects are performed in Room 7 Zellerbach. It is essential, when considering and proposing projects for performance, to consider the physical and technological limitations of this space. Students will be expected to work within existing stage configurations and lighting plots. You should also realize that your technical rehearsal will be modest, and you will not have guaranteed access to the theater for rehearsals before that time. You will be responsible for planning/designing, building, installing, **and removing** all elements of your production. Technical staff for the Department will be available for consultation, but it will be up to you to assemble and carry out your production construction and installation needs. All student productions will be assigned (by the production manager) designers, stage manager(s), and technical run crew from Department classes as available.

Proposals must include, to the best of the student's abilities, a description of any and all "unusual" production elements such as live music, large casts, water, fire, special effects, etc. The student must also be accountable to both the Faculty Supervisor and to the production manager for discussing any new/expanded production requirements that arise after the approval of the project and during the subsequent planning/rehearsal.

Guidelines for Undergraduate Honors Projects

General Considerations:

The Honors Project is viewed by the faculty as the culmination of a student's study within the undergraduate major. Therefore, you should be sure that your proposal addresses how your work and interests within (and, if appropriate, outside of) the major have led you to this project and how this project is, from your perspective, a culmination of that work.

Preparing a Proposal for an Honors Thesis-Only Project:

Your proposal should include a clear statement of the critical, theoretical, or historical problem you will be addressing through research and critical writing over the course of two semesters. The project might involve an engagement with live performance, or be confined to another area of performance studies: a critical reading of dramatic texts, a study of ideological issues in the work of a playwright, theater company, or genre of performance; an interrogation of an important performance tradition. The proposal should contain a brief description of the problem, and give some idea of the scope of the thesis, what issues, sections, or topics might be covered. It should also contain a brief annotated bibliography of primary and secondary texts that will be useful in writing and research.

Preparing a Proposal for a Honors Essay and Production Project:

In addition to the general requirements for an Honors Project, individual types of projects, such as directing, choreographing, etc., carry with them certain specific expectations. You may wish to consider/address the following recommendations and expectations when drafting your proposal:

Written thesis component. All H195A/B projects will begin with a semester of focused research on a subject of critical interest in the field of theater, dance, or performance studies. This research may take many forms and you are encouraged to discuss the options with your Faculty Supervisor. A successful proposal should give a detailed explanation of the nature and scope of your proposed research, and define the significance and consequence of that research in its own terms; it should also discuss how the research project relates to the subsequent performance/production/written project.

Production component. Students are not required to propose from within the following five project types, but are encouraged to consider the following comments as guidelines toward a successful project proposal.

Choreography Project:

Eligibility: Student must have completed 146A&B: Choreography sequence, and 60: Stagecraft.

Proposal: Must include written evidence (146A& B or faculty recommendation) of student's ability to choreograph and to assume the responsibilities of the particular project. Should include projected production costs, number of dancers involved, technical needs, musical needs, approximate length of piece. Proposal should include discussion of how this performance will benefit from, grow out of, and complement a substantial research project to be completed during the first semester.

Production: Should be at least 45-60 minutes in length. Requires Post-Production Choreographer's Notebook and self-evaluation. Contents of this book will be determined with your Supervisor.

Design Project:

Eligibility: Student must have completed appropriate design course work in Scenic, Costume, and/or Lighting from 173, 174, 175, or 177.

Proposal: Written evidence of design abilities (either from 173, 174, and/or 175 or faculty recommendation). Must discuss feasibility of project being designed given available funds and time. Proposal should include discussion of how this performance will benefit from, grow out of, and complement a substantial research project to be completed during the first semester.

Production: Requires Post-Production Presentation Book, including preparatory design research, roughs, model(s), complete drafting, prop list, complete, annotated set of renderings as appropriate, and a self-evaluation. Contents of this book will be determined with your Supervisor.

Directing Project:

Eligibility: Student must have completed 162: Directing, and 60: Stagecraft.

Recommended: Previous experience directing and/or serving as assistant to the director for a main stage production.

Proposal: Must include evidence (162 or faculty recommendation) of student's ability to direct and to assume the responsibilities of a particular project. Discuss feasibility of project given available actor pool, technical resources, and director's previous experience. Proposal should include discussion of how this performance will benefit from, grow out of, and complement a substantial research project to be completed during the first semester.

Production: Requires Post-Production Director's Notebook and self-evaluation. Contents of this book will be determined with your Supervisor.

Performance Project:

Recommended: 111: Advanced Acting.

Proposal: Must demonstrate evidence of acting/performance abilities (either through faculty or director recommendations). Proposal should include discussion of how this performance will benefit from, grow out of, and complement a substantial research project to be completed during the first semester. The nature of research topics appropriate to this type of project should be discussed with potential Faculty Supervisors.

Production: Requires Post-Production self-evaluation and essay on the actor's choices in light of his/her critical interpretation of the play.

Playwriting Project:

Recommended: 139: Playwriting.

Proposal: Evidence of playwriting abilities (either from 139, writing sample or faculty recommendation). Proposal should include discussion of how this play will benefit from, grow out of, and complement a substantial research project to be completed during the first semester.

Production: First semester research may focus either on theoretical research into the act of playwriting or, more likely, upon an area of research (such as an historical period, a particular cultural community, a specific event, etc). The student must, during the second semester, complete an original play (normally forty to sixty pages in length) by submitting drafts to the Faculty Supervisor. The student must schedule an informal public reading attended by the Faculty Supervisor, to be followed by a public discussion, a private discussion/evaluation with the Supervisor, and, finally, a revised draft of the play along with self-evaluation. In rare cases, and with the approval of the Department Chair and the Production Manager, students may be approved to schedule a staged reading of the play.

**Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies
Application for Undergraduate Honors Projects**

THEATER H195A/B

APPLICATION

Before completing this application form, please review the “General Information” and “Guidelines for Proposals” sections of the packet. Be sure to include all requested information. You may request an electronic copy of this form by emailing tdpsugadvisor@berkeley.edu. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Student Name _____ SID# _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Major(s) _____ Minor _____

UCB GPA _____ CCN _____

*Faculty Supervisor(s) _____

*Faculty Reader (for Written-Thesis Only Option) _____

*If the Supervisor or Reader is a non-Senate Faculty Member, they should draft a brief statement indicating their willingness to work on this project without remuneration. Submit this statement with your application.

SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Have you completed (or intending to complete) at least two of your Performance Studies courses by the end of the first semester of your Honors Project _____

Semester/year in which you plan to graduate _____

Semester/year in which you plan to begin your Honors Project _____

Describe any directing, choreography, design, performance, or playwriting **experience** that you have had; please note which semester you completed any **coursework related to your proposal** (i.e. 60, 162, 146A/B) and the grade you received. _____

Describe any directing, choreography, design, performance, playwriting or **other courses** which you have undertaken outside of UC Berkeley or **research projects** that you have conducted that you feel support your proposal. _____

List other directing/ choreography/ design/ performance/ playwriting **commitments** that you have or anticipate having for the academic year, both on- and off-campus. _____

Please provide a written statement (1-2 pages maximum) describing the H195 project you are proposing and why you would like to pursue it. In your statement, identify how the project relates to the rest of your course work and education in the Department or at Berkeley. Attach page(s) as needed to this application.

Signature of Faculty Supervisor Date

Signature of Second Semester Supervisor or Reader Date

Student Signature Date

Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies Faculty Supervision of Undergraduate Honors Projects

THEATER H195A/B

Theater H195A/B: Honors Course (in which the student writes a thesis and may choose to develop a theater or dance production in conjunction with it) is one of two student-led production opportunities available in the Department. Only undergraduates may submit H195A/B applications.

We see these activities as educational opportunities open to a very small number of students: projects involving the production staff and space will be chosen on the basis of the conception of the project, the prior experience of the student making the proposal, and the Department's resources for supporting these productions. In all cases, the productions will receive minimal financial support. Theater H195 A/B productions have support templates that do not vary show-to-show.

To assure the value of these projects, it's important for the Faculty Supervisor to take an active role in mentoring, advising, and monitoring the development of the project.

It is reasonable to expect the supervisor to respond to the following questions in support of a student's application (if project includes a production):

- title of the project
- goals for the project
- the student's qualifications, preparation and potential for responsibly achieving his/her vision
- scope and feasibility of the project, eg., number of participants, on and off stage
- the design factors of the project

Once approved, the Faculty Supervisor is responsible for advising and overseeing the student's project in all aspects of its development; this responsibility is extensive, and includes a willingness to participate broadly in the production process.

The Faculty Supervisor awards a letter grade to the H195A/B student for each semester of the project. The Faculty Supervisor should assign the student a grade of IP (In Progress) at the end of the first semester, to be changed after the successful completion of the project.

If the project includes a production, the Faculty Supervisor is responsible for making sure all cast members are enrolled in the proper section of 171, and s/he assigns Passed or Not Passed grades to the cast.

These projects represent the highpoint of the Berkeley education to many of our students. This kind of supervision is rarely recognized and never adequately rewarded, yet it is critical to this element of our curriculum; making a clear commitment to supervise an honors project is one way of ensuring that the experience is a good one for everyone involved.

Lastly, Lecturers and non-Senate faculty may take on a supervision project as long as they submit a statement acknowledging that they are aware there will be no remuneration for this extra work.

Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies
Faculty Supervisor Agreement for Undergraduate Honors Projects

THEATER H195 A/B

Supervisors will be expected to make the following commitment to H195A/B projects they agree to sponsor:

1. Discuss and review the proposal with student prior to submission.
2. Attend the meeting at which the presentation is presented for review and discussion.

If the proposal is accepted, the Faculty Supervisor will:

1. Participate in ongoing discussions regarding the development of the project, including but not limited to regular meetings with the student.
2. Attend **at least one** production meeting, preferably early in the process and at which designers are present. The Supervisor should be willing to remain part of the dialogue as the collaboration process develops.
3. Be available to the Production Manager, and be willing to participate in resolving some production problems. Since the Faculty Supervisor is finally responsible for the project's function in the Departmental curriculum, and in the student's individual program of work, matters having to do with the intellectual coherence and the practical effectiveness of the project should be negotiated, when necessary, between the Production Manager, the student, and the Faculty Supervisor.
4. Attend occasional rehearsals, including at least one technical and/or dress rehearsal.
5. Assume responsibility for the enrollment of cast members in the appropriate section of 171. All cast members must enroll by the end of the first week of rehearsal or be dropped from the production.
6. Attend at least one performance.
7. Participate in a review of the performance process and product with the student as well as submit grades for both the student and the cast in a timely fashion.

I understand and accept these responsibilities.

Faculty Supervisor Signature

Second Semester Supervisor Signature

This form must be signed and returned with the student's H195A/B application.

University of California, Berkeley
Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

Non-Employee / Unpaid Student Affiliate Appointment

(Please Print)

Name _____ Date _____
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

Present Address _____
 (Number) (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Student I.D.#: _____

Have you ever been employed by the University of California? _____ (yes / no)

If "yes," Name of Department _____

Title of Position _____

Dates employed: From _____ to _____

Are you a citizen of the U.S.? _____ Green card # _____

If "no:" Visa Class _____ Intended stay _____

Date entered U.S. _____ Country of res. _____

Faculty Supervisor: _____

Current Academic Semester and Year: _____

8/28/13