Deadlines for proposing an honors capstone project

1. You should begin formulating your project’s goals at least a term in advance of proposing it, and probably two. Most students find that properly narrowing and focusing a project and carefully selecting books and other intellectual materials to support it takes time.
2. Early in this process you should be talking with your mentor or sponsor professor. This person has focused a dissertation or other capstone project of his own or her own. Because of this valuable experience, you will likely get very valuable help.
3. Feel free to visit with us, Dr. Zargar and Dr. Stewart, Directors of Honors Programs, about the aims and goals and shape of the project. I will do my best to help prepare you to address the Honors Committee. Alternately, you may discuss these matters with past Honors directors, Dr. David Crowe, Dr. Joe McDowell, Dr. Jane Simonsen, or Dr. Jon Clauss.
4. In the term *before* you want to enroll for HONR 330: Capstone Tutorial (3 cr.), you should submit a completed capstone proposal, carefully following our published guidelines available on this Moodle page. You must submit the proposal BY MONDAY OF WEEK SIX. The Honors Committee, which I chair, will take up your proposal in the next few days and give you their decision—Approved, Denied, or Revision Requested—within ten days. In my experience, the Honors Committee rarely if ever denies, and only asks for revisions when a project is so unfocused or its methods so questionable that it seems no credible result is possible. When we ask for revisions, we give concrete guidance on what kinds of changes we need to see, so that you and your mentor professor know how to rethink and revise the project.
5. Because we want you to develop as good citizens as well as good thinkers, the Honors Committee is very unlikely to consider late proposals. You will need a very good excuse that is essentially out of your control—for example, an illness that took you away from Augustana for a time, or an absent mentor professor who returns to campus in week six. You must alert me as Director of any such mitigating circumstance. Otherwise, the Honors Committee will not review a late proposal.
6. If approved you will register for HONR 330 during your regular registration period. The Records Office has confirmed that in order to register for HONR 330 you need HONR 220 as a prerequisite, but that WebAdvisor requires no other clearance to register for the capstone. (Of course any student who registers for the capstone mistakenly or without Honors Committee permission will be dropped early in the enrolled term.)
7. If the Honors Committee calls for extensive revisions, we may ask you to register for HONR 330 late, on an Add basis instead of via regular registration. I will take the responsibility of negotiating such a situation with the Records people, on your behalf.

Good luck with your proposal!

Cyrus Zargar and Eric Stewart

Honors Co-Directors

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