Honors in the Major – Department of Art Requirements

# Overview:

Honors in the Major (HITM) provides undergraduate students an opportunity to conduct independent, original research in their major area of study, under the guidance of expert faculty members. An Honors Thesis can take many forms, and for students within the Department of Art it typically results in the completion of a [creative project](https://honors.fsu.edu/alumni-connection/creative-project) and requires an 8 to 10 page written paper. The scope of this will be determined in consultation with the HITM Thesis Director, but in all cases will require an oral defense and a summative written report. More information can be found[, here](https://honors.fsu.edu/honors-major/defense-semester).

This written report serves as an analysis of the creative project - its intentions, conception and evolution, historic context, and the processes employed in its making. Many find this experience useful preparation for graduate school and their careers. Successful completion results in the distinction of graduating *With Honors in Studio Art.* This is announced at graduation, and it is listed on a student’s official transcript. HITM students additionally become members of the University Honors Program, entitled to participate in all program activities and benefits reserved for members.

Eligible art majors pursuing the BA or BFA are strongly encouraged to complete an HITM project in their junior and/or senior year(s). Each HITM student works with a HITM committee comprised of faculty members of their choosing. HITM students defend their finished thesis in a meeting with their HITM committee, and submit their written report to the University Honors Program.

There are a variety of funding options available that can be used to support research for and realization of HITM projects. These include [the $750 Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award](https://honors.fsu.edu/honors-major/funding-and-awards) and the $1000 to $4000 [FSU Idea Grant](https://cre.fsu.edu/students/idea-grants), which provides undergraduate students summer support for research. For examples of prior HITM projects in the Department of Art found, [here](http://art.fsu.edu/programs-2/undergraduate/honors-in-the-major/).

BFA students - This project is expected to be a separate research project from the work done to complete their BFA thesis project; these should be two bodies of work but the thesis work may have elements or be combined with the HITM project in the final exhibition.

BA students – Participation in HITM allows BA students the opportunity to apply for a studio in the Carnaghi Arts Building, for all or a part of their participation in HITM. These are based on availability. Please reach out to the Honors Liaison for the Department of Art for more information. Contact the Liaison, Carrie Ann Baade [cjonesbaade@fsu.edu.](mailto:cjonesbaade@fsu.edu)

# Requirements to Participate in the HITM Program:

* Students must be enrolled undergraduate majors in the Department of Art
* Students must have completed 60 hours of college credit, with at least two-full semesters remaining before anticipated graduation date.
* Transfer students must have completed at least one full term (12 semester hours) at FSU and have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 at FSU and their previous institution.
* Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA (FSU and Cumulative)

# To Enroll in the HITM program, students must:

* Identify and recruit an HITM Thesis Director from the pool of full-time faculty in the Department of Art. This person helps to build the committee, to clarify the project aims, and helps set a timeline for completion of the creative project (including issues of budget and space availability).
* If you have questions, please contact the Department of Art’s Honors Liaison, currently, Associate Professor of Art Carrie Ann Baade - [cjonesbaade@fsu.edu](mailto:cjonesbaade@fsu.edu)
* Submit the completed HITM application with necessary signatures (Thesis Director, Department of Art Honors Liaison, and Department of Art Chair) to the Honors Program office, HSF 2003 by the application deadline.
* Once this is submitted to HITM, the student should check with the Department of Art Advisors (either June Dollar or Emily Johnson) to make sure you are enrolled for credit with your major professor.

# Timeline for Completing HITM Projects:

Upon acceptance, HITM students are required to complete a minimum of 2 semesters and 6 credit hours, or max of 3 semesters and 9 credit hours with the Thesis Director in order to earn Honors in the Major. These semesters should be consecutive, with an exception made for summer term if not on campus. The below provides a timeline for completion of the HITM in 2 semesters.

Prospectus Semester (Semester 1):

* + Register for 3 semester hours of ART 4981 with the Thesis Director
  + Create HITM Committee – this committee is comprised of 2-3 additional FSU faculty committee members, formed in consultation with the Thesis Director. One committee member must be from outside the Department of Art
  + Complete Thesis Prospectus (aka, the creative project proposal), and have it signed by all committee members and submitted by the date required
  + Continue writing and creative components, planning on several drafts and revisions
  + Check the Honors in the Major website regularly for important forms, deadlines, and reminders
  + Apply for [funding](https://honors.fsu.edu/honors-major/funding-and-awards)

Thesis Proposal Content:

The prospectus should be a 2 to 3-page document that includes:

A clear description of your project’s nature and purpose, the issue(s) you will address, and the significant in your field.

A critical review of related work in the field, with the purpose of providing background information and revealing the place of the project in the larger field. Your proposed research methods, along with an explanation of why your approach is appropriate for your research or creative activity.

Project timeline. Preliminary bibliography.

Students must turn in a hard copy of their prospectus with a signed copy of the

[**Prospectus Approval Form**](https://honors.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu561/files/2014%20Prospectus%20Form_0.pdf)by the Friday of the 7th week of classes.

Defense Semester (Semester 2):

* + Register for 3 semester hours of ART 4981 with the Thesis Director
  + Organize meeting of full committee for oral defense of creative work, scheduling this event early enough to meet within designated Honors Program timelines. This meeting will take place where your creative project can be installed such as an art gallery, museum, or classroom.
  + With the approval of all HITM Committee members, select and then announce the oral defense date and time, and share this with the Honors Program by the date required
  + Complete the [Defense Announcement](file:///Users/cjonesbaade/Desktop/Defense%20Announcement) document, and submit to the Honors Program
  + Check the Honors in the Major website regularly for important forms, deadlines, and reminders
  + All thesis documents and signed forms must be submitted to Honors office by the required deadline – see [here](https://honors.fsu.edu/honors-major/defense-semester)

The above is a template. Students, in consultation with their Thesis Director and the Honor’s Liaison for the Department of Art, can alternatively elect to spread their HITM thesis coursework over 3 semesters (9 credits). Regardless of how long the HITM Thesis work takes, all requirements must be met and the thesis successfully defended prior to graduation.

For the most up to date information regarding dates, current copies of required forms, etc. – please consult with members of the Honors in the Major staff (HITM@fsu.edu), or reach out to the Department of Art’s Honors Liaison.