

Getting Started

1. **What is meant by “new knowledge” and/or moving society and scholarship forward?**

“New knowledge” varies by discipline;; we want you to think about how you are contributing something new to society or moving scholarship forward. This can be an incremental step, building upon previous work, thinking about things in a new way, or discovering something new. We do not want you to recreate something that has already been done, or to recreate somebody else’s work.

2. **How long must I work on a project, before it will meet requirements (*what do you mean by sustained*)?**

The length of time you spend on your project is determined by the needs of your work and the arrangement you have set up with your faculty mentor. You can begin your project at any point during your Purdue experience and you can submit your work as early as you feel ready to answer the proposal questions. Keep in mind, *data from Gallup suggests that students who spend a semester or longer on a scholarly project are more likely to be engaged professionally after college (Gallup, 2014).*

3. **Can I do something outside of my major?**

Yes, of course!

4. **Where can I find out what research opportunities exist?**

Working with your professors and primary advisors you may be able to find out about research opportunities in your home department related to some of your career interests or other summer opportunities that may be available. You are also encouraged to reach out to the Honors College faculty as they can help you connect with others on campus who may be looking for undergraduate research assistants or have other projects you can be a part of. Keep your eye on the Honors News Network weekly newsletter for announcements about opportunities, as well as the Opportunities page of the Honors College website:

<https://honors.purdue.edu/current-students/opportunities/index.php>

5. **How do I get started on developing my idea? What resources are available, who can I talk to?**

You will be required to find a faculty mentor for your project who can help you in the development of your idea and guide you through the process. Use your networks to get connected by reaching out to professors you have for classes and reading about research interests of other professors on campus you might be interested in working more with. The Honors College faculty and advisors are happy to help you in this process as well.

6. **Who qualifies as a mentor? Does it need to be a faculty member? What if it is a director of a center/group that is leading a project? How do I find a mentor?**

Ideally, you will be working with a Purdue faculty member, but we recognize that other people may be serving as your mentor. These special situations are something that we can work with you on an individual basis to see if there are other options or ways to make this work. Please schedule an appointment with your Honors Advisor to discuss this in more detail.

Submitting the Scholarly Project Proposal

7. **What does “departmental honors thesis” mean? Which departments/colleges have an approved honors thesis track?**

Some departments have recognized programs that fulfill the scholarly project requirement. On the project proposal form you will see a drop-down menu listing all possibilities.

8. **How long until I hear back from the committee?**

The faculty committee works to get back to you within approximately a month of the proposal submission deadline. You should continue working on your project while you wait for a response, as the committee’s goal is to approve projects if at all possible. You may have some revisions to make to your proposal or the committee may ask for more information, but they want to help you get this project approved. Keep working while you wait to hear back from them so you can stay on schedule with your work!

9. If not approved, will I know why?

In the event that your project is not approved, you will have individual and specific feedback provided to you regarding the reasoning for the committee's decision. You can resubmit your work after making revisions as you work with your faculty mentor and the faculty committee to understand what needs to be done to approve your project.

Completing the Project

10. My proposal was approved – now what?

Congratulations! Work on the project if necessary. Wait for further information from faculty committee about verification when the time comes. If you are still working on your project, keep going! If your project and presentation are already complete, you will receive further direction about the deposit and verification of your project directly from the faculty committee.

11. What if my project changes focus? Do I need to go through the approval process again?

We recognize that all research projects have twists and turns. As long as your original mentor continues to work on the project with you, you do not need to submit a new proposal. If you change mentors, however, you will need to submit a new proposal.

12. Do I need to turn anything in to the Honors College?

A process to deposit your work, and archive projects, is currently being developed. The faculty committee will contact you with further once your project has been approved and the archiving process has begun.

13. What will count as a “public presentation”?

This component is fulfilled when you present to an audience that was not involved in the project. There are multiple public presentation options which fulfill this requirement – the Purdue Undergraduate Research poster symposium, a poster session or presentation at a conference, an accepted or published publication, among others. If you have questions about what will “count”, please contact your Honors Advisor.

14. Will the Honors College offer presentation opportunities?

Yes, during each fall semester the Honors College will host a research poster symposium. Students seeking a spring presentation venue are encouraged to submit to the University Undergraduate Research Symposium.

15. Where can I find information about existing symposiums on campus to present my research?

Asking your faculty mentor is a great place to start. Your primary advisor might have suggestions as well. Finally, visit Purdue' Undergraduate Research homepage <http://www.purdue.edu/research/Ugrad/> for additional information

16. If I am publishing an article, does it need to be published before I graduate?

Yes, the article must be published prior to graduation. Or, confirmation that the article has been accepted, for future publication, will also fulfill the requirement. We encourage you to consider submitting to *The Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research* (JPUR), <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jpur/>

General Research Related Questions

17. What resources are available to know if I need IRB approval and what does that process look like?

Please speak with your faculty mentor regarding your project and possibility of seeking IRB approval, and the typical process. If you are conducting a project with human subjects, it is likely that you will need IRB approval. Similarly, intellectual property rights might need to be considered for appropriate projects.

18. Where can I find money to fund my project?

The Honors College has funds to directly support the completion of scholarly projects. We strongly encourage you to submit a proposal for funds here https://purdue.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_83a7AspmVaaUyKR

19. I'm an Engineering student, will my senior design project count?

Not by itself. However, if you complete PHIL 207: Ethics for Technology, Engineering, and Design during or after the same semester in which you are enrolled for senior design, the combination of the course and the application of your senior design project will fulfill the honors scholarly project requirement.

20. Is it okay if I was paid to participate in research?

Such situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis as it depends on the circumstance of the nature of the research – i.e. voluntary vs. an internship requirement.

21. Will my internship count as my scholarly project?

Not by itself, however it can be an incubator for an idea, for work to continue once you return to campus and identify a faculty mentor.

22. Are "creative projects" accepted?

We encourage proposals involving creative projects. Identifying a faculty mentor and discussing the project is a great first step. Your Honors Advisor can also help you begin to establish an idea. It's possible that if your proposal is accepted, the faculty committee will require a critical reflection in addition to the project

23. If I have a previously written abstract for my project, can I submit that on the webform?

It is unlikely that a current abstract will sufficiently answer the four questions outlined in the proposal summary. Therefore, to compose a strong proposal you should give specific attention to each of our criteria questions.