FSAD Honors Program

Guidelines
The Honors Program recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among Cornell students. The following provides important information about the Honors Program, including eligibility, the application procedure, and requirements. The Honors Program is a rigorous and rewarding endeavor. Though the application process begins in your junior year, in order to be successful it is important that you begin to plan for honors research carefully, even as a freshman and sophomore.

Eligibility Requirements
In order to graduate with Honors, students must be in residence for eight semesters (students can still opt for Study Abroad or Urban Semester, because these programs require registration as a Cornell student). Transfer students are eligible for the Honors Program as long as they remain in residence for all semesters after they transfer. Students must achieve and maintain a GPA of at least 3.4 to be eligible for the Honors Program, and the 3.4 GPA must be maintained even after being admitted into the Honors Program. Students whose GPA drops below 3.4 will be dropped from the Honors Program (though these students can register for special studies in order to complete their research).

Application Procedure
It is expected that students apply for acceptance into the FSAD Honors Program during the first semester of their junior year (the beginning of the second semester of junior year is the latest possible period for application and registration). Students must complete the FSAD Honors Program Application Form.

To complete the form, students must first identify and get the consent of a FSAD faculty member who would become their Research Mentor. The Research Mentor will help the student identify a topic, and act as an advisor throughout the Honors Program. The Research Mentor must approve the student’s proposed thesis topic and sign the application form. The student will be notified within two weeks of submitting the FSAD Honors Program Application whether they are accepted into the program.

The FSAD Honors Thesis
The major component of the Honors Program is the honors thesis. Each student is required to conduct original research on a topic chosen by the student. Credit is given for this research, so that this work is part of the student’s course load each semester. The research must be written up in a formal manner appropriate to the research type. FSAD 4990 Honors Seminar is the official course for Honors Program research. Students may register for up to 6 credits in FSAD 4990 over their last three semesters, and must take FSAD 4990 for at least the two semesters of their senior year. During the junior year, the student usually does their preliminary research under FSAD 4010. The research will be supervised by your FSAD faculty Research Mentor. The final written thesis must be submitted by April 1 of the senior year. The research thesis will be evaluated during an oral thesis defense by the student’s Honors committee, which must meet no later than April 15. This committee consists of the faculty honors advisor, the research member, and an additional Faculty Representative who is assigned by the FSAD Honors Research Director. The Research Mentor and Faculty Representative may request revisions which must be incorporated into the final version of the written thesis.
Fiber Science & Apparel Design Honors Program
Application Form

The FSAD Honors Program is for undergraduate students who are undertaking basic or applied research leading to a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design.

Registration must take place by the beginning of the first semester of your junior year.

1) Date ___________________  2) Name ________________________________
3) Local Address ______________________________________________________
4) E-mail____________________________  5) Local Phone _________________
6) Option __________________________  7) Cumulative GPA _____________

Anticipated date for completion of thesis _________________________________
Anticipated date of graduation __________________________________________

Committee Members (please PRINT names):

Faculty Honors Advisor (FSAD)___________________________________________

Research Member ______________________________________________________
(May be added as late as the end of spring of the junior year)
The FSAD Faculty Representative will be appointed by the FSAD Honors Research Director
Please describe the topic and general questions for your research. A specific research question is not expected at this time.

Indication of Faculty Support

By signing below, faculty indicate their willingness to serve on the student's honors research committee.

Faculty Honors Advisor (FSAD)  ____________________  Date  ______________
Signature

Research Member  ________________________________  Date  ______________
Signature
(May be added as late as the end of spring of the junior year)

FSAD Faculty Representative  __________________________  Date  ______________
Signature
(May be added as late as the end of spring of the junior year)

Return to:  FSAD Undergraduate Assistant
T57  HEB
Summary of Requirements

In addition to the honors thesis, students must complete all of the following requirements in order to successfully complete the Honors Program. For the most part these requirements are designed to aid in the research process.

1. The student must form an Honors Thesis Committee by identifying and obtaining the consent of an FSAD faculty member to act as Faculty Honors advisor. This should be done when applying for the Honors Program. The student must also identify a second faculty research member, who will usually be from outside of the department or college.

2. Students must meet with their Research Mentor at the beginning of the fall semester senior year to set out written expectations regarding progress on the thesis during the fall semester. Applicants may be asked to review an honors project completed in FSAD as an example of format and expectations.

3. Students must attend four professional research seminars during their senior year (decided upon in conjunction with their Research Mentor).

4. The Honors Research Director will appoint an additional FSAD Faculty Representative to the Honors Thesis Committee.

5. Submit a complete thesis draft to each member of your thesis committee after receiving approval from your faculty honors advisor by April 1.

6. Schedule Oral defense of thesis for no later than April 15

7. Students are required to complete and present a poster of their research at a poster session organized by the Cornell University Research Board between April 15 and the last day of classes in the spring semester.

8. Also the student will submit a digital (pdf) copy of the honors thesis to ECommons for posting.

Honors degree

If the thesis is defended to the satisfaction of the thesis committee, and a final thesis with any revisions suggested during the defense has been approved, the student will graduate with honors. The honors will appear on the student’s Cornell transcript and diploma.

If you have additional questions please contact the Department Honors Director/DUS.
FERPA RELEASE
(to be completed following approval of Honors thesis)

Name of Student: _______________________________________________________

Date of Birth: __________________________________________________________

Student NetID: __________________________________________________________

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I hereby authorize Cornell University to release the following educational records and information (identify title of the paper):

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

The records identified above will be made available to the public through the Cornell institutional repository (currently eCommons). While I understand that it is preferred that I deposit the educational work identified above, there are times when it may be simpler for Cornell University staff to do it on my behalf. I hereby authorize the deposit of the educational records identified above on my behalf.

I am requesting the release of records so that my work can be used as an example of the work conducted and to further the research of others. I hereby authorize the Cornell University Library to take any necessary actions to accomplish this purpose.

I represent that I am the creator of this paper and that the paper is original and that I either own all rights of copyright or have the right to deposit the copy in a digital archive such as eCommons. I represent that with regard to any non-original material included in the paper I have secured written permission of the copyright owner(s) for this use or believe this use to be allowed by law. I further represent that I have included all appropriate credits and attributions.

I understand that (1) I have the right not to consent to the release of my education records, and that (2) this authorization shall extend to Cornell University and its grantees, lessees, or licensees in perpetuity unless revoked by me, in writing and delivered to the Cornell University Library. Any such revocation shall not affect disclosures previously made by Cornell University or its licensees prior to the receipt of any such written revocation.

________________________________________  _____________________________
Student Signature  Date

Cornell University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer.
Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design

Honors Program Completion Form

Student’s Name _____________________________________________________________

Department _________________________________________________________________

Thesis Title ________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Defense (circle one)          Passed       Not Passed
Thesis (circle one)           Complete     Not Complete

Faculty Honors Advisor         ____________________________ Date _____________

                                    Signature

Research Member                  ________________________________ Date _____________

                                    Signature

FSAD Faculty Representative     ________________________________ Date _____________

                                    Signature

Return this completed form with a hard copy of your thesis to T57 HEB
Please also provide an electronic copy to the Undergraduate Advising Assistant