

Bumpers College of AFLS Honors Research Project Guideline

An undergraduate research project is a traditional mechanism to provide a capstone experience for undergraduates pursuing honors. In many instances, the research project is an opportunity to showcase the knowledge and skills one has acquired in their respective degree program.

In cooperation with a faculty mentor, the student will design, research, execute, analyze, critique and report on a project that is relevant to their respective major or research interests. Although research projects may differ substantially across disciplines, they typically involve a literature review, hypothesis development, research, data collection, data analysis, and thesis preparation. Students are required to develop a thesis proposal. The thesis proposal should include a title, introduction, literature review, and materials and methods needed to complete your research.

Research Project

At a minimum, the research project will involve:

- Problem statement developed from a literature review
- Hypothesis statement(s) or research objectives
- Data Collection using one of the following:
 - Generation of original data from laboratory or field experiments (see requirements on ethical treatment of animals if applicable)
 - Generation of original data based on surveys or other data collection techniques (see requirements by Internal Review Board)
 - Gathering of existing data from scientific literature
- Data Analysis and Reporting
- Thesis Preparation

Thesis Document

The thesis represents a scholarly report on the research conducted by an honors student. Although the specific formatting may be geared toward discipline-specific content, student theses should follow a general formatting pattern that includes the following:

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Project Summary, Abstract, or Executive Statement
- Introduction
- Literature Review
 - Theoretical and Conceptual Framework (if appropriate for your discipline)
- Materials and Methods
- Findings/Results
- Discussion/Conclusions/Implications/Recommendations
- Literature Cited or References
- Tables, Figures, Charts, Graphs, Sketches
- Appendixes (as needed)

A thesis should be at a minimum 12-15 pages of text (excluding citations, tables, figures) using Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins.

Students are encouraged to pursue funding for their research/creative projects through Bumpers College Undergraduate Research and Creative Project Grants or other campus-wide funding programs found at (<http://honorscollege.uark.edu/current-students/research-grants/index.php>), and submit thesis work in Discovery (<http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/research-and-extension/discovery-journal.php>).