

Department of Music Honors Guidelines

I. Overview

Students may apply to pursue an honors project during their senior year. These projects are administered by the Emory College Honors Program and allow qualified students to engage in advanced research with commensurate standards beyond the traditional course of study. Honors students pursue these projects under the supervision of a music faculty advisor.

Students may complete an honors project in music in several different areas or combination of areas:

- **Composition**, culminating in a recital of original compositions, accompanied by program notes.
- **Performance**, culminating in a solo recital accompanied by program notes.
- **Research**, culminating in a written thesis of approximately 21,000-30,000 words (70-100 pages) inclusive of notes and bibliography.
- **Hybrid**, a project that combines research with either performance or composition.
 - A hybrid research/ performance honors project culminates in a half recital coupled with a written thesis of approximately 10,500-15,000 words (35-50 pages) inclusive of notes and bibliography.
 - A hybrid research/ composition honors project culminates in a half recital of original compositions coupled with a written thesis of approximately 10,500-15,000 words (35-50 pages) inclusive of notes and bibliography.
 - A hybrid performance/ composition honors project culminating in a recital that combines both performance and original composition.

II. Eligibility and Expectations

Students with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher may submit a proposal for an honors project in music in their third year. Projects should represent extraordinarily high achievement within the undergraduate academic setting, on a par with the best undergraduate work at any academic institution. Honors projects that combine areas must meet the stated requirements for both areas being combined.

Honors Timeline

Jan/Feb, third year	Identify honors advisor and consult to define and outline project.
February 15	Submit a draft proposal to the Director of Undergraduate Research for review.
March 1	Final proposal signed by instructor/faculty advisor due to Music Department. (See below for proposal requirements) and re-submitted to Director of Undergraduate Research for full-faculty review.
May 1	Notification of proposal approval or denial, propose date for oral defense
Sept 30, fourth year	Honors committee selection completed
2 weeks prior to oral defense	Thesis must be made available to all committee members
March/April	Oral defense
April 1	Final draft of thesis, all corrections made, due to Committee
April 8	Oral examination completed; two copies of the final document must be submitted
April 11	College deadline for submission of honors project. All submissions will be made electronically.

III. Honors Proposal Details and Procedures

- Late October/early November: “Call for Proposals for Honors Projects” is sent to all 3rd year music majors with a 3.5 GPA or above.
- January 15: Student should schedule a meeting with the Director of Undergraduate Research (DUR) to go over the Emory College Honors Program as it is fulfilled in the Music Department. At this meeting:
 - Students should have a general idea about the research project.
 - Students should have approached the faculty member who will serve as the primary advisor for the honors project. In the case of hybrid projects two faculty members may serve as joint advisors.

Artist Affiliates are not to be named primary advisors but may serve on the committee. The primary advisor will need to agree to provide regular guidance and input to the student. In the case of performance honors where the applied instructor is an artist affiliate, the primary advisor and artist affiliate will work together in advising the student and assuring that appropriate deadlines are met. In every case the student should inform any faculty involved about the time and commitment required.

- March 1 of the third year: Prospective honors students must submit a written proposal (detailed below) to the DUR for distribution to the full faculty of the Music Department.

IV. Honors Proposals

- The Honors proposal must be signed by the primary advisor and, if applicable, by the artist affiliate.
- Faculty consideration of an honors proposal will be based on student eligibility, the merit of the proposed recital program, portfolio, or research project, and the faculty advisor’s assessment of the student’s work at that juncture.
- The music faculty will approve or deny the project by May 1. Approval is given based on the vote of the full music faculty.
- Any changes of personnel, including primary faculty advisor or applied music instructor, will void approval of the proposed project.
- Once approved the student must meet with the DUR and agree to meet all deadlines associated with the project.

Students may apply for funding assistance through sources such as the Friends of Music or the SIRE Research Program. Students should consult the DUR for more information.

V. Area-Specific Requirements:

A. Research Honors Proposal Requirements:

The Proposal for Research Honors should include:

- an abstract, including articulation of the research question(s) addressed in the thesis
- a paragraph about the methodology to be employed
- an outline and timeline of research
- a listing of any travel involved (such as to foreign libraries or collections held by other universities)
- a budget for the entire project
- a preliminary bibliography

B. Performance Honors Proposal Requirements

Repertoire for Honors recitals should have a minimum of 70% solo repertoire. Solo repertoire is defined as works for no more than two players. Changes in repertoire must be approved by the primary advisor, and artist affiliate teacher, and the full faculty before November 1st of the student's senior year.

The proposal for Performance Honors must include:

- a listing of repertoire included on the recital with timings (total timings should be approximately 60 minutes)
- a timeline for learning and memorizing (if applicable) each piece
- a short written paragraph on each piece that details why the work was chosen and its significance within the repertoire for the instrument or voice
- name of collaborative pianist*
- names of any others involved in the recital*
- a budget sheet that details any costs associated with the recital such as accompanist fees, extra player fees, purchase of scores, etc.

*Fees for pianists and other performing musicians are the responsibility of the student.

C. Composition Honors Proposal Requirements

The Proposal for Composition Honors should include:

- a Table of Contents of the portfolio, even if the works are as yet untitled or incomplete, with estimated timings for each work
- a timeline that details when work on each composition will be completed and if a preliminary performance has been scheduled prior to the honors recital
- a short paragraph describing each work
- a budget that details expenses such as fees for performers, costs of copying parts, and purchase of scores

VI. Honors Committee

Once the Honors Proposal has been approved by the full faculty an Honors Committee will be chosen by the student in consultation with the DUR. The committee will comprise

- the full-time faculty Honors advisor
- one other regular full-time Music faculty member
- one faculty member from another department

In addition, an Artist Affiliate can serve on the honors committee and vote as a fourth faculty member.

VII. Required Course Work

- **Semester 1:** Research honors students will enroll in MUS 495A for 3 credit hours
- **Semester 2:** Research honors students will enroll in MUS 495BW for 4 credit hours

MUS 495A and MUS 495BW do not count toward the general requirements for the music major, but Mus 495BW satisfies the continuing writing requirement. All college rules for drop/add apply to these two courses. In addition, students must take one additional Category C course offered within the Music Department during the junior or senior year.

This course will also fulfill one of the two required general music electives.

VIII. Oral Defense

An oral defense of the honors project will be given at the end of the senior year, no later than April 8. This defense usually entails a twenty to thirty-minute presentation followed by questions from the committee. All committee members must be present. The committee will recommend the following to the College Honors Committee:

Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*): completion of the program with exceptional performance, together with an overall average of 3.50

High Honors (*magna cum laude*): completion of the program with outstanding performance, together with an overall average of 3.50

Honors (*cum laude*): satisfactory completion of the honors program, together with an overall average of 3.50

No Honors: any part of the program is incomplete or unsatisfactory

IX. Instructions for Electronic Submission of audio/video materials (if applicable)

The performance will be recorded and the student will receive a CD, DVD, and an upload-ready electronic file of the recital. The conversion to an upload-ready electronic file is done by the Schwartz Center staff. In the event that the audio/video materials cannot be converted to an electronic format by the deadline, turn in a copy of the CD and DVD along with your exam report with their signatures of your committee members. The library staff will then make the electronic files later.

X. Recording (if applicable)

A recital must be professionally recorded. The honors student will arrange for the recording through the Schwartz Center staff. The student will receive one DVD and four CDs of the performance. Additional copies may be made by the student.

XI. Publicity

All publicity for any research presentation must be reviewed and approved by your honors advisor.