Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Policies for the Honors Research Project

Electrical engineering and computer engineering majors may fulfill the requirements for the Honors Research Project in one of two ways: by using the senior design project that is the capstone experience of their engineering degree, or by using undergraduate research in the department.

Using Senior Design for the Honors Research Project:

On the Honors College Contract form, which defines the Honors Distribution, the course numbers for Senior Design are used for the Honors Research Project:

4400:401 and 402 Senior Design I and II – Electrical Engineering, or
4450:401 and 402 Senior Design I and II – Computer Engineering.

In the third week of 4400/4450:401 Senior Design I, each senior design team submits a preliminary design report. Once an Honors student’s preliminary design report has been accepted by the ECE department, it is ready for submission to the Honors College; the packet submitted to the Honors College must include:

- the Honors Research Project: Proposal form listing the team’s assigned department faculty advisor for senior design as the Honors Project Sponsor, other department faculty (including the senior design instructor) as the Readers, and the student’s academic advisor as the Honors Faculty Advisor.
- a cover document describing the student’s individual responsibilities on the project.
- the senior design preliminary design report document.

The proposal must be received by the Honors College by October 1st of the senior year.

At the end of the Fall of the senior year, each senior design team submits a design report. During the Spring semester of the senior year, the design report is refined and revised by the Honors student with feedback from the faculty, and the result is submitted to the Honors College as the Honors Research Project report. (Note that this is different from the final senior design report, which includes additional information on testing and verification of the design.) While the Honors Research Project report should document the entire design, and be co-authored by the entire senior design team, a separate Honors Summary inserted after the signature page must clearly describe the Honors student’s individual contribution and conclusions. The process for revision is similar to the process for a MS thesis:

- The student submits a full version of the Honors Research Project report to the Honors Project Sponsor, and responds to any requested revisions and edits. (Honors College deadline: eleventh week of Spring semester)
- When both student and advisor are satisfied with the revised document, the student submits the document to the Readers, and again responds to any requested revisions and edits. (Honors College deadline: twelfth week of Spring semester)
- When the Readers are satisfied with the revised document, signatures of the Sponsor and the Readers are obtained, and the full report is submitted to the Department Chair for signature.
- The abstract from the report and the report itself are submitted electronically to the Honors College (Honors College deadline: thirteenth week of the Spring semester).

Students should expect reports to require significant revision at each step, and will need to start the process well in advance of the Honors College’s deadlines to allow time for the faculty to read and edit the document.
Using Undergraduate Research for the Honors Research Project:

On the Honors College Contract form, which defines the Honors Distribution, the course numbers for Undergraduate Research are used for the Honors Research Project:

- 4400:301, 302 and 303 Undergraduate Research I, II, and III – Electrical Engineering, or

All three courses, for a total of three credit hours, must be completed on a single project in order to count undergraduate research for the Honors Research Project.

During 4400/4450:302 Undergraduate Research II, a proposal describing the research project is submitted to the Honors College. The Honors Research Project: Proposal form lists the research faculty advisor for undergraduate research as the Honors Project Sponsor, other department faculty as the Readers, and the student’s academic advisor as the Honors Faculty Advisor. The proposal must be received by the Honors College before their deadline.

Before receiving credit for 4400/4450:303 Undergraduate Research III, a written report is submitted to the department. This report (and any technical papers written as a result of the research work) may be used as the basis for the Honors Research Project report, which should be an expanded version that covers the full three-semester span of the research work. If the Honors Research Project report is co-authored by multiple members of a research team, a separate Honors Summary inserted after the signature page must clearly describe the Honors student’s individual contribution and conclusions. The process for revision and document format are similar those for a MS thesis:

- The student submits a full version of the Honors Research Project report to the Honors Project Sponsor, and responds to any requested revisions and edits. (Honors College deadline: eleventh week of semester of graduation)
- When both student and Sponsor are satisfied with the revised document, the student submits the document to the Readers, and again responds to any requested revisions and edits. (Honors College deadline: twelfth week of semester of graduation)
- When the Readers are satisfied with the revised document, signatures of the Sponsor and the Readers are obtained, and the full report is submitted to the Department Chair for signature.
- The abstract from the report and the report itself are submitted electronically to the Honors College (Honors College deadline: thirteenth week of semester of graduation).

Students should expect project reports to require significant revision at each step, and will need to start the process well in advance of the Honors College’s deadlines to allow time for the faculty to read and edit the document.

(Approved by ECE department faculty, September 20, 2012)