Department of Statistics
Honors Project Information

If you are considering doing your Honors Project in the Department of Statistics, here are some guidelines. In spring semester of your junior year, you should find a faculty member in the department who is willing to serve as your sponsor. You will need to work with your sponsor to identify a suitable topic for your project and establish a plan. Part of that plan will be for you to build your knowledge base and learn new statistical techniques. To accomplish this, you should enroll in 3470:489 Topics in Statistics (honors)* in fall semester of your senior year. For that course you will do the necessary research pertaining to your topic. This generally involves reading literature related to your project as well as learning new statistical skills. Your sponsor will tailor the specifics of this course in accordance with your project goals. Expect to spend a number of hours per week related to this task. You will meet with your advisor on a regular basis throughout the semester, typically weekly. By the end of fall semester your project should be well-defined and your background preparation should be complete.

In your final semester, you should enroll in 3470:498 Senior Honors Project for 1-3 credit hours. Under your sponsor’s guidance, you will finish the technical aspects of your project and then write your paper. This will be a technical paper, with typeset equations, proper references, and bibliography. There is no set minimum number of pages; your sponsor will determine whether your paper is adequate in terms of form and content. The final version of this paper is due to the Honors College by the end of the 13\textsuperscript{th} week of the semester. However, in order to allow sufficient time for editing and corrections, you should submit a first draft to your sponsor much earlier in the semester. It is suggested that you submit the first draft by the 8\textsuperscript{th} week of the semester.

* Depending on the nature of your topic, your sponsor may prefer that you enroll in another course in fall in place of 3470:489. For example, if your project is in the actuarial area, your sponsor may require that you enroll in 3470:471 Actuarial Science I in the fall in lieu of 3470:489. In such cases, the alternative course, such as 471, would substitute for 489 as a prerequisite for 3470:498.