

## **English B. A. Honors:**

**All submissions are due by midnight of the following dates:**

**May 2010 Graduates:** Submission of Abstract Proposal: **October 15, 2009**  
Submission of Project: **April 1, 2010**

**August 2010 Graduates:** Submission of Abstract Proposal: **February 15, 2010**  
Submission of Project: **July 1, 2010**

**December 2010 Graduates:** Submission of Abstract Proposal: **April 15, 2010**  
Submission of Project: **November 1, 2010**

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Truman State University is an honor in itself. However, those of you who are interested in garnering an additional distinction for your undergraduate degree should consider pursuing the B.A. Departmental Honors in English.

### **Qualifications for the B. A. Departmental Honors in English:**

- 3.5 or better overall GPA;
- 3.75 or better GPA in the English major, and
- production of a paper of at least 15 pages (or an equivalent project) supervised by a mentor and approved by the B.A. Departmental Honors Committee.

The awarding of the B.A. Departmental Honors in English is contingent upon the maintenance of a 3.5 or better overall GPA and a 3.75 GPA in the English major at the time of graduation.

### **Preliminary Steps for the B. A. Departmental Honors in English:**

- Think about the projects you are working on in your English Major courses now; you may revise a class project, but the revision must be substantial. That is, the Committee will be looking closely at your cover letter (after the final submission) to see that you addressed the evolution of the project adequately. Or, consider a project in the foreseeable future (e.g., senior seminar paper, creative writing project, or independent study). If you are willing to go the extra mile to make it truly excellent, go to the next step.
- Choose a faculty member with expertise in the topic you wish to develop and ask that person to be your mentor.
- Under the supervision of your mentor, write a formal abstract of your project to be submitted to the B.A. Departmental Honors Committee for its approval. The B.A. Departmental Honors Committee will inform you of its decision by the beginning of March, May, and October for August, December, and May graduates, respectively. Submit your abstract via email to [Dr. Hena Ahmad](#) and in hard copy in her mailbox, with the downloadable and printable [Abstract](#)

[Submission Form.](#)

## Guidelines for English Departmental Honors Projects

**Write and Revise.** All projects should demonstrate that they have gone through a *substantial revision process*.

Meet with your English faculty mentor regularly for suggestions about revision and guidance on project format. It is your responsibility to meet with your faculty mentor to ensure that the final project meets the standards of a revised and polished literary or creative work. The Committee awards the distinction of English Honors only to those projects meeting the highest standards of excellence.

Attach a title page to your final project. The title page should include your name, the title of the project, the faculty mentor's name, and the date the project is submitted to the Committee. This information should be centered and double-spaced.

Include a cover letter. Your formal one-page letter should be addressed to the Committee to discuss how the project developed. The letter should provide details about the genesis of the project, the reasons for selecting this particular work for submission for English Honors, and some discussion about the research, revision, and/or creative process for the piece. The letter should also describe the faculty mentor's role in revisiting, rethinking and revising the work.

**Submit a Final Product.** All papers submitted to the English Departmental Honors Committee should be in their final polished form *without any grammatical or mechanical errors*. The Committee will not provide suggestions for revision. Once a project is submitted it will either be accepted or rejected. The project should be submitted in hard copy to Dr. Hena Ahmad's office, McClain 301 or in her mailbox in McClain 311, along with the downloadable and printable [Final Submission Form](#) for English Honors. Like the abstract, an email attachment should then be sent to Dr. Ahmad.

For further information, for both the Abstract and Final Submission Forms, and for sample abstracts and a sample project, you are encouraged to visit the website <http://englishhonors.truman.edu>

The English B.A. Departmental Honors Committee hopes that you will seriously consider pursuing the B.A. Departmental Honors in English, both for the intrinsic satisfaction of a job well done and for the academic distinction you may earn. If you have questions about the process, please contact one of the English Departmental Honors Committee members listed below.

Hena Ahmad, Chair ([hahmad@truman.edu](mailto:hahmad@truman.edu))

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