

English Honors thesis application guidelines

Applications are **due on May 1 by 5:00pm**. All documents should be emailed to the program director, Eric Weiskott (weiskott@bc.edu). There are six required documents:

1. The [application form](#), including a list of relevant English courses.
2. A **letter of support from your prospective adviser**, emailed separately by your adviser to weiskott@bc.edu. This letter should make clear that your prospective adviser knows and approves your plans for the proposed thesis and agrees to supervise it.
3. A **prospectus (2–3 pp.)**. The prospectus is a roadmap of your project. If the project is critical, the prospectus may suggest its theoretical approach. It should clearly state what texts you will take up, and to what end. Further, it should make clear what kind of preparation you have, either in your coursework or beyond, to undertake the project. An example of a critical prospectus can be found [here](#). A creative prospectus also lays out the scope of the project, as well as its proposed form. Many writers like to start the prospectus with a paragraph or two written in the voice of the proposed work: a scene from the imagined novel; an introductory paragraph of the proposed memoir. Click through for sample proposals in [poetry](#), [fiction](#), and [creative nonfiction](#).
4. An **annotated bibliography**. The number of articles and books will vary and should be worked out with your adviser. The bibliography should give the Honors committee a sense of your proposed research. Make clear which works you have already read and which you plan to read. Creative writers should include at least two books addressing craft and/or the revision process. Writers often include books that have been inspiring or influential in their writing process. In addition to the author and title, be sure to include two to three sentences of your own commentary for each book. Why is this book or article important for your project? If you haven't yet read it, how do you think you may use it? If you already know the work in question, how has it influenced your thinking? You can find some sample annotated bibliographies for both critical and creative projects [here](#).
5. A **writing sample (10–15 pp.)**. If you're proposing a critical thesis, a critical paper is most helpful. It doesn't have to be on the same subject as the project you're proposing, but it helps the committee to see a work that demonstrates a sustained argument. Writing samples are read carefully to determine your preparation to undertake a long, independent research project. If you're proposing a creative project, it's important to submit work in the genre you've proposed.
6. An **unofficial transcript**. Your transcript should include the names of courses taken as well as course numbers and grades through fall of junior year. The committee occasionally asks applicants to submit spring grades.

The committee reserves the right not to process late or incomplete applications.

Applicants are notified of their application status by mid-May. Accepted applicants register for ENGL 6600 during Add/Drop period at the beginning of the fall semester of senior year.