Undergraduate Research by Department & Curricula
from the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Bulletin
NOTE: Ten of the 43 departments/curricula did not have an Undergraduate Research or similar entry. For those, information on the Honors Program was included instead.

Department Of African Studies And Afro-American Studies

Undergraduate Research
Faculty in the department support undergraduate research through honors supervision and encouragement of independent research through summer internships and visits to Africa and other areas of the African diaspora. Opportunities for research are individually tailored.

Curriculum in American Studies

Undergraduate Research
American studies majors can develop a two-semester honors thesis project in consultation with an advisor. Students have received summer undergraduate research fellowships, earned research support and travel awards and presented their work at the Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research.

Department of Anthropology

Internships, Field Work and Independent Study
Students who wish to explore an anthropological concern outside the conventional classroom setting, or who desire advanced or specialized work beyond current course offerings, should consider ANTH 393, 395, 396, 451, 453.

ANTH 393 provides anthropology students the opportunity to engage in internships or
other field experiences within or beyond the University that have a significant anthropological learning component. Variable credit may be obtained for this course. ANTH 393 is a controlled enrollment course; it requires the permission in advance of the faculty member sponsoring the internship, of a responsible official of the agency in which the internship is carried, and of the director of undergraduate studies, who will register the student. It is essential that students make arrangements and secure permissions prior to the semester of the internship. The Anthropology Major's Handbook provides important information for students preparing for ANTH 393.

ANTH 396 provides anthropology students the opportunity to engage in independent study, and ANTH 395 the opportunity to engage in field research, under the mentoring of a specific faculty member. Variable credit may be obtained for these courses, although three units are usually expected. ANTH 396 and 395 require the permission of the faculty member under whom the student wishes to conduct research prior to the semester in which ANTH 396 or 395 is taken. Both are controlled enrollment courses for which the student can register only through the director of undergraduate studies in the department. In general, this course should be taken only by students with some prior course work in anthropology or a related social science.

ANTH 451 and 453 are six-unit field school courses in which the student gains hands-on experience in research and study in the field under the direction of a faculty member.

Anthropology majors are limited to having no more than nine credit hours of field-oriented course work (ANTH 393, 395, 451, or 453) count toward meeting the major requirement, although they are not restricted from enrolling in more than nine credit hours of these courses combined.

Curriculum in Applied and Materials Sciences

Undergraduate Research
Students are strongly encouraged to undertake a research project during their junior and/or senior years. The applied sciences are heavily research-based. Through the challenge of a research project, students come face-to-face with the leading edge of an area, gain expertise with state-of-the-art techniques and instrumentation, and experience a professional scientific career firsthand. A number of faculty members on campus (particularly those in the Departments of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, Computer Science, and Biomedical Engineering and in the Dental Research Center) conduct research projects related to the applied sciences. A list of faculty members interested in
working with undergraduates is available from the curriculum office and should be secured by students prior to interviewing with faculty about research projects.

**Department of Art**

*Undergraduate Research*

Opportunities for undergraduate research in the art department exist in several forms. Detailed descriptions and application guidelines are available on the art majors Blackboard site and from the student services representative in the Art Department office.

Allcott Travel Fellowships support two summer research projects in studio art or art history.

R.M. Hanes Summer Fellowship in Studio Art awards up to $3,000 for a studio art research project. It is a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) administered through the UNC Office of Undergraduate Research.

**Department of Asian Studies**

*Undergraduate Research*

The department actively encourages undergraduate student research. Through classes, advising, and office hour consultations, faculty guide students toward defining areas of interest, conceptualizing research questions, identifying sources, and writing academic papers. Students may pursue research through independent studies, the senior honors thesis, and study abroad research opportunities such as the Burch Fellowship. Asian studies students have received a variety of competitive research support and travel awards, won regional contests for undergraduate papers, published papers in academic journals, and presented their work at such events as the Senior Colloquium in Asian Studies and the campus-wide Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research in the spring.

**Department of Physics and Astronomy**

*Undergraduate Research*

All majors conduct at least one semester of research under the supervision of a faculty member. Many enjoy the experience so much that they continue for several semesters.
**Department of Biology**

*Undergraduate Research*

An undergraduate research experience is extremely valuable to a student who intends to pursue postgraduate work in the biological sciences. Undergraduates may participate directly in the research of faculty in the Department of Biology. This research opportunity allows students to put their knowledge of biology into practice through participation in a biological research program and is encouraged by faculty. Students' participation in research can begin as early as their second year by registration in BIOL 395.

Undergraduates with a 3.0 or higher grade point average in biology courses are encouraged to enroll in BIOL 395. Information concerning the procedure for enrolling in a research course can be obtained from the chair of the department's undergraduate honors research program. Additional information can be found at [http://www.bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/research.htm](http://www.bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/research.htm).

**Department of Chemistry**

*Undergraduate Research*

Almost every undergraduate chemistry major who has undertaken a research project has found it to be an exciting and rewarding experience. The reasons are many. One certainly is that it affords an opportunity to make pioneering discoveries at the forefront of science, using instrumentation and techniques far more sophisticated than those usually encountered in standard laboratory courses.

More than 80 students are involved in undergraduate research projects in chemistry each year. Although successful completion of an undergraduate research project is a requirement for graduation with honors or highest honors (see below), it is not necessary to be a participant in the Honors Program to undertake a research project.

The usual mechanism for getting involved in a research project is to register for CHEM 395. This process begins well in advance of a pre-registration or registration period with a visit to the Chemistry Student Services office, where a student may obtain a list of undergraduate research opportunities and a form titled Request for Registration in CHEM 395.

Most students begin research during the spring semester of their junior year and continue throughout their senior year. CHEM 395 and CHEM 396 (Special Problems in Chemistry) together may be taken for credit as many times as desired but may be counted
for no more than nine hours total credit toward graduation in either the B.A. or B.S. traditional and polymer tracks and for no more than six hours in the B.S. biochemistry track. In the B.S. curriculum, it may be counted no more than once as an advanced chemistry elective.

**Department of Classics**

*Undergraduate Research*

Classics majors may choose to write an honors thesis during their senior year. The research topic is customarily selected in the spring semester of the junior year, in consultation with the student's advisor and the director of undergraduate studies. The subject is usually derived from areas explored in advanced coursework, allowing a more detailed and in-depth examination of the topic. For a list of past senior theses, see the departmental Web site ([http://www.classics.unc.edu/ugradresearch.html](http://www.classics.unc.edu/ugradresearch.html)).

**Department of Communication Studies** (Honors Program)

*Honors in Communication Studies*

The department participates in the University's Honors Program. Students eligible for the program (see University requirements) may consult with the departmental honors advisor about enrolling in COMM 693H and 694H.

**Department of Computer Science**

*Undergraduate Research*

Undergraduates can participate in nationally recognized research programs or use the department's facilities to pursue self-directed research with a faculty member. The department has built peaks of excellence in several areas, including computer graphics, distributed and collaborative systems, hardware design, medical imaging, networking, and parallel computing. Much of its research is accessible to undergraduates and focuses on solving real world problems.
**Department of Dramatic Art**

*Undergraduate Research*

Faculty and departmental advisors are available to help students define areas of interest, understand the existing knowledge base in a particular area, and develop a plan for meaningful undergraduate research. These goals can be realized through departmental independent study and honors research. See the director of undergraduate studies and the honors advisor for more information. Additional resources are available through the Office of Undergraduate Research at [http://www.unc.edu/depts/our](http://www.unc.edu/depts/our).

**Program in Cultural Studies**

*Undergraduate Research*

The University Program in Cultural Studies sponsors working groups of faculty and students in culture and economics, culture and science, and representation and performance. Undergraduates are encouraged to join these groups and to contribute to their ongoing research.

**Department of Economics** (Honors Program)

*Honors in Economics*

The Department of Economics Honors Program offers outstanding economics students the opportunity to work closely with an individual faculty member on a specialized research topic of the student's choice during the senior year. Generally, students with a 3.5 grade point average in economics courses and in all University course work are invited to participate in this two-course program (ECON 691H and 692H).

In the first semester (ECON 691H), students become familiar with the recent literature on topics of major interest. Each candidate formulates an honors thesis proposal and initiates work on the project. In ECON 692H, the thesis work is conducted under the supervision of a faculty advisor who is a specialist in the general topic area of the research.

Near the end of second semester (ECON 692H), the student submits to an oral examination on the thesis. Upon successful completion of the program, the student receives the bachelor of arts degree with honors or with highest honors. Students in the honors program are also required to complete at least an eight-course major rather than the minimum seven courses, including ECON 691H and 692H.
Department of English & Comparative Literature
(CMPL Honors program)

Honors in Comparative Literature
Majors who have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.2 or higher at the end of their junior year will be invited by the director of undergraduate studies to do honors work in comparative literature. To receive departmental honors, students in their senior year sign up for a two-semester sequence of independent study courses (CMPL 691H, 692H) under the direction of an advisor. During the two semesters, the student will write an honors thesis and defend it in an oral examination on the basis of which honors or highest honors will be awarded. Both CMPL 691H and 692H may count among the CMPL courses required for the major.

Environment Science and Studies

Undergraduate Research
All students are encouraged (but not required) to complete an independent or team research project. Such projects introduce students to the tools needed for graduate study. They also provide an important place where students can work directly with the world-class environmental faculty and graduate students at UNC-Chapel Hill, as well as in the many environmental organizations in the Research Triangle. The Triangle area contains one of the largest collections of environmental organizations and expertise in the world, providing unique opportunities for students to conduct research on an immense range of topics from fundamental scientific research to policy applications.

Department of Exercise and Sport Science

Undergraduate Research
Students are encouraged to explore research interests by completing independent research studies and senior honors theses. For a few highly motivated and dedicated individuals, working with faculty on faculty research projects is possible.

Curriculum In Folklore

Undergraduate Research
The study of vernacular culture - and of the everyday artistrys that infuse culture with
spirit and meaning - is perhaps best pursued in the real-world laboratories of community. The key to such study is emotional and analytical engagement, fostered through conversation, participation, and the crafting of partnerships that pursue shared understanding. Many folklore courses encourage such engagement by inviting students to conduct fieldwork in the communities in which they're interested. Indeed, fieldwork might be considered a keystone of most folklore classes.

Students who wish to pursue folklife study outside of conventional classroom settings, or who desire advanced work beyond current course offerings, should consider FOLK 495 or 496. The former invites students to engage in directed field research; the latter encourages them to pursue non-field-based folklife study. Both unfold under the mentorship of a faculty member, and both require the permission of that faculty member in the semester before the class is taken. Students interested in pursuing one of these independent research options must have completed prior course work in folklore or a related social science. To register, students should contact the chair of the curriculum.

**Department of Geography**

*Undergraduate Research*

Opportunities for research are available with many of the department's faculty. Students interested in these opportunities take GEOG 296 with the faculty member of their choice.

**Department of Geological Sciences**

*Undergraduate Research*

The Department of Geological Sciences encourages qualified undergraduate students to conduct independent research under the direction of a geological sciences faculty member on an interesting geologic topic. This research can be conducted as a one to four credit hour project (GEOL 390, Special Problems in Geology), or in conjunction with the geology Honors Program.

**Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures** (Honors Program)

*Honors in Germanic Languages & Literatures*

Majors in either concentration qualified for honors work are strongly encouraged to consider taking honors in German during their senior year. Undertaking an honors project
gives students the opportunity to explore a topic in depth under the direction of a faculty member. Such individually directed research and writing often proves to be a high point of the student's academic career. Seniors who wish to do honors work should confer with the director of undergraduate studies and enroll in German 691H (honors reading and special studies) followed by either 692H or 693H (writing of honors thesis.) These honors courses count toward the major.

**Department of History**

*Undergraduate Research*

The History Department encourages undergraduate research in a variety of ways. The required seminar for majors (HIST 391-397) introduces students to historical research. The senior Honors Program (HIST 691-692) gives students an opportunity to carry out a year-long research project. In both the fall and spring semesters senior honors students may apply for competitive awards, the Michael L. and Matthew L. Boyatt Awards in History for Undergraduate Research, to help support travel for the purpose of research.

**Interdisciplinary Studies**

*Undergraduate Research*

To enhance job placement, IDST students participate in the undergraduate research opportunities available in the departments and curricula that constitute their program of study and sometimes complete an internship either in the summer or during the academic year.

**Curriculum in International & Area Studies**

*Honors in International & Area Studies*

Honors study involves the completion of a substantial piece of original research and the formal presentation of the results in an honors thesis and oral defense. Those who successfully complete the program are awarded their B.A. with either honors or highest honors in international studies. Students who wish to submit a thesis for honors in international studies must enroll in INTS 691H and INTS 692H during their senior year. INTS 692H may count as one of the ten required courses for the major. INTS 691H will
count as elective credit only. Prospective honors students must submit a two-to-three-page prospectus outlining their project in the spring of their junior year.

**Curriculum in Latin American Studies**

*Undergraduate Research*

Latin American Studies majors are eligible to develop a senior thesis project in their last year. The thesis may be related to a fieldwork project the summer after the junior year. A small number of grants might be available for undergraduate field research in Latin America, especially in connection with a senior thesis.

**Department of Linguistics** (Honors Program)

*Honors in Linguistics*

Any linguistics major with a cumulative total GPA of at least 3.2 is eligible to attempt a degree with honors in linguistics. To graduate with honors, a student must work with a faculty supervisor, enroll in LING 691H and 692H during the senior year, and complete and defend an honors thesis according to departmental and Honors Program requirements. Interested students should contact the honors advisor, Professor Misha Becker, during their junior year.

**Curriculum in Management & Society**

*Undergraduate Research & Independent Study*

Students may pursue independent research projects and independent study courses with faculty who teach in the MNGT curriculum. Honors students complete research projects for their honors theses.

**Department of Marine Sciences**

*Undergraduate Research*

The department offers opportunities to undergraduates to conduct directed research in our laboratories. Students work directly with faculty members and may enroll for credit as part of an honors or research project.
**Department of Mathematics**

*Undergraduate Research*
Students can conduct original research with the guidance of a faculty member, usually directed at the preparation of an honors essay.

**Department Of Music (Honors)**

*Honors in Music*
Students interested in becoming candidates for a degree with honors in music should read the regulations governing departmental honors in the College of Arts and Sciences, found elsewhere in this bulletin, and should consult the honors advisor of the department toward the end of the sophomore year. The department has funds to support undergraduate research (defined to include creative activity) that are often used by students for honors theses and similar independent studies.

**Curriculum in Peace, War & Defense**

*Undergraduate Research*
Students who qualify are encouraged to experience original research by writing a senior honors thesis described in the honors section above.

**Department of Philosophy**

*Undergraduate Research*
The Philosophy Department offers a colloquium for majors - PHIL 395 (old number 96) and Honors PHIL 396 and 397 (old numbers 100A and 100B) - for students to work closely with faculty on an honors thesis.

*Undergraduate Symposium*
The Philosophy Club and Phi Sigma Tau coordinate a student conference of selected papers. The one-day conference is set in the format of a professional conference where students have an opportunity to present their research.
Department of Political Science

Undergraduate Research

Courses in political science often include a research component, and students may engage in directed research under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The Honors Program provides political science majors the opportunity to pursue an independent research project over a two-semester period, culminating in a senior thesis. Students may apply for funding and support for research projects to the Office of Undergraduate Research. The office also sponsors a research fair where students can present their findings in panels and poster sessions open to the public.

Department of Psychology

Undergraduate Research

Qualified students interested in doing independent research under the direction of a faculty member may enroll for independent research credit (PSYC 395). Students interested in this option should speak directly with psychology faculty members regarding opportunities in their laboratories. Research opportunities are posted at the Office of Undergraduate Research Web site and in the lobby of the Psychology Department. Contact should be initiated by the student.

Department of Public Policy

Undergraduate Research

The honors thesis process enables students to undertake a major piece of independent research. In addition, students who identify a topic of interest can work with a faculty member on a research project through independent study.

Department of Religious Studies (Honors Program)

Honors in Religious Studies

Students majoring in religious studies (including double majors) with a grade point average of 3.3 or above in department courses and 3.2 GPA overall may choose to do an honors thesis. Candidates for graduation with honors in religious studies are to be enrolled in RELI 691H in the fall and RELI 692H in the spring semester of their senior year. Consult
the department's director of undergraduate studies for details.

**Department of Romance Languages** (Honors Program)

**Honors**
The departmental Honors Program is open to any qualified major in French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish with at least a 3.2 grade point average. The student pursuing a degree with honors must take the 396 and 691H course sequence in the major language (for Portuguese and Italian, the first course in the sequence is 390.). The student, in consultation with the director of honors for the language, will formulate a topic and select an appropriate faculty member to supervise the thesis. In 390 or 396 the mechanics of researching and writing the senior thesis will be discussed, and a start made on the thesis itself. In the 691H course the thesis will be completed and the student examined by the supervisor and two additional faculty members to be agreed upon by the student and supervisor. The director of honors, in consultation with the examiners, will recommend that the student who has defended the thesis graduate with honors, highest honors, or merely with course credit.

Those interested in the Honors Program should contact the undergraduate advisor for their major language.

**Curriculum in Russian & East European Area Studies** (Honors Program)

**Honors in Russian and East European Area Studies**
Majors who earn at least a 3.2 overall grade point average and at least a 3.5 grade point average in the major are eligible to become candidates for graduation with honors. Honors candidates must enroll in RUES 693H and 694H (Honors in Russian and East European Studies) and defend an honors thesis. During their enrollment in these courses, students engage in original research and write and orally defend an honors thesis. Based on the faculty evaluation of their work, the baccalaureate degree may be conferred with honors or with highest honors. Students enrolled in RUES honors receive elective credit for RUES 693H and major credit for RUES 694H.
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures

Undergraduate Research
Students are encouraged to work on course-complementary or independent research projects with department faculty. Students eligible for honors study are encouraged to write a senior honors thesis in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Department of Sociology

Undergraduate Research
Students interested in working with faculty on their research projects should contact the Office of Undergraduate Research for more information and also speak with the director of undergraduate studies.

Department of Statistics & Operations Research

Undergraduate Research
Undergraduate research under the direction of faculty members from the Department of Statistics and Operations Research is offered through the independent study and research courses (STOR 496 and 497). Students pursuing honors are encouraged to participate in these programs.

Curriculum in Women's Studies (Honors Program)

Honors in Women's Studies
An honors degree in women's studies is available to majors who meet the curriculum's guidelines for honors and who successfully complete a thesis based upon original and independent research. Contact the chair of the curriculum for more information.