



What you need to know about:
Honors Research

All Honors Research experiences are credit generating, meaning students must register and pay for the course associated with the type of Honors Research they wish to complete.

The three types of Honors Research include:

- Honors Undergraduate Research: HON 285/286
- Honors Independent Study: XXX 299 (XXX = department code, i.e. ACC 299 for accounting)
- Honors Thesis: HON 375aXX

Students can choose to register for 1 - 6 credit hours for each type of Honors Research. The number of credit hours influences the tuition associated with the experience, as well as the amount of work expected each week and over the course of the semester.

- 1 credit hour = 3 hours/week; 45 hours total
- 2 credit hours = 6 hours/week; 90 hours total
- 3 credit hours = 9 hours/week; 135 hours total
- 6 credit hours = 18 hours/week; 270 hours total

Students earn a grade for their Honors Research experience. Grading criteria, or how the student will be graded, is agreed upon by the student and faculty advisor and submitted to the Honors Program prior to completing the experience. Common grading criteria for Honors Research can include:

- Attendance and participation during research hours and lab meetings.
- Completion of weekly research logs.
- Compliance to laboratory expectations.
- Adhering to APA ethics standards and confidentiality agreements.
- Final research paper, presentation, poster, or reflection paper.

Skills developed through Honors Research as identified by past Honors students includes:

- Research skills including data collection methods, subject interaction, and interpretation of results.
- Efficient reading and understanding of scientific literature.
- Development of research design and execution.
- Teamwork and collaboration with a team of students and faculty members.
- Development of time management, project management, and professionalism.
- Problem solving, professional flexibility, and critical thinking.
- Improvement of written and oral communication skills.
- Organization, analysis, and coding of research data.
- Understanding and application of ethics in a research setting.
- Networking with and mentorship from faculty.



Honors Research examples in:

Accounting

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Accounting:

ACC 299: Perception of Personalized Emails, 3 Credit Hours

Conducted research on customers and their perception of personalized emails from companies. Completed background research to learn more about topic. Created and conducted a survey sent to ISU affiliates to gather information on how customers truly feel. Compiled findings into research presentation.

ACC 299: Pinnacle Actuaries, 1 Credit Hour

Worked with Pinnacle Actuaries in the Pinnacle University Program to develop and present a work product to the team.

ACC 299: Implications of Tax Laws for Student Athletes, 3 Credit Hours

Project consisted of the composition of an accounting case about the tax implications of NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) deals for college students and Overtime Elite players. Examined how young basketball players decide what to do after high school and the tax laws influencing those decisions. Created a resource discussing how players can use tax laws to make financially sound decisions regarding their futures.



Honors Research examples in:
Agriculture

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Agriculture:

HON 286: Chick Growth Effects of Eating Yeast, 1 Credit Hour

Assisted in growing yeast in the lab for research purposes. Participated in feeding and caring for chicks being used for research trials. Research included determining the best method to feed yeast to the chicks, observing how the chicks liked eating the yeast, and if it affected their growth or any other vital parts of the chick. Periodically weighed the chicks for data collection. Assisted in gathering all data and analyzing different components being tested.

AGR 299: Metabolic Functions in Animals, 1 Credit Hour

Conducted a literature review of Diindolylmethane (DIM) and researched the effects related to cancer and other metabolic disorders in animals.

AGR 299: In-Vitro Fermentation in Ruminants, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on in-vitro fermentation/digestion in ruminants. Learned about how pH affects microbial's in the rumen. Kept a lab journal of overall project findings and reflections throughout the research experience.

AGR 299: RSO Involvement Post Covid-19 Pandemic, 1 Credit Hour

Investigated the issue of declining student involvement in Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on ISU's campus since the Covid-19 pandemic. Explored changes that can be made to remove barriers students have to getting more involved.

AGR 299: Development of a College Course Focusing on Historical Events Shaping Agriculture, 3 Credit Hours

Created a college course that examined student awareness of the significant historical events that have shaped the industry of agriculture. Course examined historical events through the lens of novels. Utilized instructor and student perspectives to create a personally and intellectually engaging class.



Honors Research examples in:

Anthropology

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Anthropology:

HON 285: Analysis of the Bonobo Ape Kanzi's Vocalizations to Determine Understanding, 1 Credit Hour

Explored the question: "Does Kanzi, a bonobo ape who has been the subject of research regarding learning language, understand when he has made a functional versus nonfunctional tool?" Collected background knowledge regarding bonobo vocal communication, bonobo condition, and Kanzi's history of tool use and production. Utilized sound analysis software to collect data relating to Kanzi's vocalizations while flintknapping, the act of making stone tools, and analyzed results to draw conclusions.

ANT 299: Osteology, Paleoanthropology, & Primatology, 1 Credit Hour

Investigated the importance of Osteology as a precursor to understanding Paleoanthropology and subsequently Primatology. Studied forensic anthropology and forensic research. Organized research into an informational PowerPoint that demonstrated the knowledge gained from independent study.

HON 395 Thesis: Impact of Representation of Women in Latin American Music Videos, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on how Latinx college students view the representation of women in Latin American music videos and how these representations have impacted views of themselves in addition to women within the Latin American community. Utilized academic, peer reviewed articles and ethnographic methods of interviews and surveys to support research.



Honors Research examples in:

Art

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Art:

ART 299: Development of Photography Portfolio, 1 Credit Hour

Developed a graduate school admission portfolio consisting of twenty photographs that demonstrated unique artistic style and skill. Combined past work with new work to create a portfolio that spanned several years of artistic development. Edited past work to create a cohesive portfolio that highlights style and utilizes digitally manipulated photographs.

ART 299: Creative Display of Type, 3 Credit Hours

Explored different ways that type can be creatively displayed on both three- and two-dimensional surfaces. Utilized both physical and digital tools including a laser cutter, vinyl cutter, and Adobe programs to develop product. Showcased work as a part of the final Graphic Design BFA Senior Exhibition.

ART 299: Development of Glass Blowing Techniques, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated new techniques in the hot shop while blowing glass such as adding color and continuing castings via molds. Grew as a student researcher and furnace worker. Developed critical thinking and problem-solving skills while gathering glass from the kilns, working with the glass, heating and transferring pieces, and repairing mistakes.

ART 299: Portraying ADHD in Academia Through Photography, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on exploring ADHD in Academia through photo-based work. Incorporated text into final photo-based product by including educational information regarding ADHD, interview content, and personal written word. Experimented with different ways to portray one's experience with ADHD through physical photographic processes, conceptual approaches, and presentation modalities.

ART 299: Lost Media in the Music Industry, 2 Credit Hours

Examined the preservation of media in the context of lost media. Restored, cataloged, and digitized 78rpm records for which no accessible digital version existed. Documented the physical project via video demonstrations and a paper on lost media in the music industry.



Honors Research examples in:
Biological Sciences

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Biological Sciences:

BSC 299: Nutritional Effects on Bees, 1 Credit Hour

Collaborated with lab partner on nutritional effects on bees. Ran DNA extractions and set up RNA extractions. Became familiar with lab equipment and testing procedures.

BSC 299: Handling Neurospora Fungi, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on becoming proficient in sterile-technique and the care of handling Neurospora fungi. Kept clear and concise notes on research progress and attended laboratory meetings. Performed experiments with Neurospora fungi.

BSC 299: Cortico-Steroid-Mediated Improvements of Dystrophic Muscles, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on using RNAi to determine the pathway of cortico-steroid-mediated improvements of dystrophic muscles.

BSC 299: UroPathogenic E. Coli, 1 Credit Hour

Expanding knowledge of UroPathogenic E. Coli. Analyzed the organism's resistance to bleach. Conducted multiple experimental assays and utilized different data collection methods to perform research.

BSC 299: Favoritism in Adult Frogs, 1 Credit Hour

Worked with the O. Pumilio frogs and tadpoles to collect and interpret data about their life history. Completed projects on adult frogs feeding their tadpoles and looked for favoritism of certain tadpoles or locations in the tank by swapping locations of tadpoles after one complete trial. Organized data and presented findings.

BSC 299: Interactions between Species of Plants, 1 Credit Hour

Worked closely with faculty advisor and members of lab group to prepare seeds for planting, plant seeds and monitor care of seedlings, transfer seedlings, and harvest plants when matured. Assisted in weeding of plots at the ISU Horticulture Center and measured crops at maturation. Researched the interactions between species of plants and how they compete for space and resources. Studied microbial interactions between plants and their soil and treatments testing the effect of drought on plants due to climate change.



Honors Research examples in:

Chemistry

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Chemistry:

CHE 299: Catalytic Properties of Enzymes, 1 Credit Hour

Studied the catalytic properties of enzymes, which are large protein molecules in cells that catalyze chemical reactions. Determined optimal conditions for catalysis and the maximal rate at which certain enzymes can catalyze specific reactions.

CHE 299: Synthesizing Compounds, 1 Credit Hour

Synthesized new compounds with sulfonamide functional groups and analyzed compounds using various methods including IR, NMR, Mass Spectrometry, and X-Ray Crystallography.

CHE 299: Gene Coding, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on gene encoding for *Listeria monocytogenes* Glycerol Kinase, then purifying the resultant protein, characterized for catalytic activity.

CHE 299: Growth Curves of Leishmania Cells, 1 Credit Hour

Established fundamental skills of research while working to grow cell cultures to learn what a basic growth curve looks like for *Leishmania* cells utilizing both microscopy and MTT cell viability assays. Utilized experimental design to test hypotheses regarding additions to cell cultures. Project was the basis for future research testing the effects of strontium complexes on model system *Leishmania* T. cell viability by MTT assay, looking specifically for statistically significant decrease in cells with the strontium complex addition.

CHE 299: Chemical Oxidation, 2 Credit Hours

Research focused on the chemical oxidation of a rhenium selenide cluster species containing pyridine, as well as the synthesis and coordination of a related pyridine-based ligand. Research goal was to compare the physical properties of these two complexes to determine the impact of coordinated ligands. Completed a quantum yield study on a series of para-substituted phenyl acetylide cluster complexes.

CHE 299: Synthesis of Carbinolamine Compounds, 2 Credit Hours

Synthesized a series of carbinolamine compounds. Completed isolation, purification, and spectral identification. Studied the aqueous kinetics as a function of pH and reported findings.



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Honors Research examples in:

Communication

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Communication:

COM 299: Intersection of Relationships & Mental Health, 1 Credit Hours

Conducted qualitative research on the intersection of relationships and mental health.
Analyzed data and organized findings into final research paper.



Honors Research examples in:

Communication Sciences and Disorders

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders:

HON 286: Infant-Toddler Shared Book Reading, 2 Credit Hours

Analyzed data for the Infant-Toddler Shared Book Reading study in the Research in Early Language & Literacy Acquisition Lab. Accurately coded parent's utterances and communication strategies used with their infant or toddler.

CSD 299: Demographics of Pediatric Dysphagia, 1 Credit Hour

Conducted research and gathered data on the topic of demographics of dysphagia, or swallowing disorders, in the pediatric population.

CSD 299: Increasing Language Access for Individuals with Complex Communication Needs, 1 Credit Hour

Assisted in the collection of environmental language samples at the Children's Discovery Museum in Uptown Normal to develop QR codes for increased language access for individuals with complex communication needs.

CSD 299: Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury, 2 Credit Hours

Completed a systematic search and conducted extensive literature reviews to study traumatic brain injury (TBI) and its effects on emotional regulation, executive function, personality changes, and social cognition. Created a pamphlet of findings and presented at the ISU research symposium.

CSD 299: Expanding Knowledge on Autism Spectrum Disorder, 3 Credit Hours

Focus of research was to gain experience on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from a professional lens. Completed a series of mini projects related to ASD to gain knowledge and then shared resources and education for other looking to grow in their professional knowledge of autism spectrum disorder. Completed an online training on Autism in toddlers and attended webinars on ASD hosted by professionals in the field.



Honors Research examples in:
Criminal Justice

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Criminal Justice:

HON 285: Linkage between The Dark Tetrad, Empathy, Cyber-stalking, and Antisocial Behaviors, 3 Credit Hours

Developed a campus-based survey to assess student's perceptions and participation across a variety of behaviors. Studied linkage between the dark tetrad (narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and sadism), and a host of antisocial behaviors, empathy, cyber-stalking, and antisocial cyber activity associated with social media usage.

HON 285: Sexual Education in the Criminal Justice System, 3 Credit Hours

Reviewed literature relating to pre- and post- test sexual education surveys in the criminal justice system. Developed a short sexual education/knowledge survey to measure baseline inmate knowledge. Updated literature relating to current sexual education programming in prison and jail settings.

CJS 299: Data Collection & Organization, 2 Credit Hours

Collected and organized empirical data across several different information databases. Developed a product to display data in a way that highlights accuracy and reliability for each database. Described reliability and accessibility information for all fifty states in work product.

CJS 299: Latinx System Avoidance in Healthcare, 1 Credit Hour

Conducted a literature review over Latinx system avoidance in healthcare and barriers to healthcare access in Latinx communities. Developed a final paper discussing findings of literature review.

CJS 299: Public Perceptions of Conservation Officers, 3 Credit Hours

Examined public perceptions of conservation officers using open-source data. Researched the level of respect afforded to conservation officers and perceptions of their legal authority in the United States. Created a written report of findings based on research questions established with faculty advisor.



Honors Research examples in:

Economics

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Economics:

HON 285: Exploring the Gender Gap for in Job Placement for Individuals with PhDs, 2 Credit Hours

Research focus was on coding, transcribing, and cleaning data on the gender gap in job placement for individuals with PhDs. Compiled and created graphs and summary statistics.

ECO 299: Political Economics, 2 Credit Hours

Research culminated in a paper on the branch of economics known as political economy. Research focused on President Biden's first two years in office, examining what President Biden was able and unable to get passed from his agenda, as well as the political factors influencing these outcomes.

ECO 299: Development of Information Fluency, 4 Credit Hours

Developed skills of technical econometrics, a branch of business analytics that uses mathematical and statistical tools to calculate economic relationships, and abstract problem solving. Collected information via censuses from 1980-2020 and learned to navigate thousands of pages of data. Analyzed data relating to agriculture and connected findings to major.

ECO 299: Economic Perspectives on Inflation, 1 Credit Hour

Examined the topic of inflation and analyzed the two opposite economic perspectives on the current and future inflation landscape. Developed the skill of information fluency and problem solving while developing final paper.



Honors Research examples in:
English

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of English:

ENG 299: Supporting & Uplifting Students in English Courses, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on how teachers can become better advocates for their students and the importance of taking English to create a better sense of self and establish one's identity. Examined participation in class, honoring others when personal information is shared, and creating a safe space for students to learn from one another's writing and life stories. Project culminated in an annotated bibliography as preparation for future thesis.

ENG 299: Examining the Life of Julian of Norwich, 3 Credit Hours

Researched the life and work of Julian of Norwich and her contributions as one of the earliest female authors in the English language. Investigated her life through a feminist perspective as an anchoress who documented the vision of Jesus Christ and lived independently in seclusion without depending on marriage or family rights during her time.

HON 395 Thesis: Biases in Copyediting, 1 Credit Hour

Examined the biases present in copyediting style guides. Discussed how future copyeditors can approach these biases and help prevent bias from influencing written and published work.

HON 395 Thesis: Impact of Teaching Life Writing in High School Classrooms, 1 Credit Hour

Thesis focused on life writing within high school English classrooms and the importance of incorporating life writing into lesson planning. Researched how to facilitate and construct an environment where students connect with themselves, their classmates, and instructors to bring life lessons and diverse perspectives they have shaped from life writing into real world experiences.

HON 395 Thesis: Grammar Instruction Methodology in US Schools, 1 Credit Hour

Thesis focused on Grammar Instruction methodology in United States schools culminating in a 40-page written thesis. Included written definitions of descriptive and prescriptive grammars, the history of grammar instruction in the US, and discussion of issues such as the "Grammar War" and its associated fallout for grammar instruction. Drew comparisons to England's structure of grammar instruction and addressed social linguistics.



Honors Research examples in:

Family and Consumer Sciences

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences:

HON 286: College Student's Relationship Quality and Well-Being, 1 Credit Hour

Developed and piloted a dyadic study of college student dating and family relationship quality and its associations with partner's individual health and well-being. Measured physiological indicators of health such as heart rate, variability, sleep quality, and engagement in physical activity using POLAR A370 Fitness Trackers. Grew in skills of project design, participant recruitment, data collection, and data interpretation.

FCS 299: Interior Designers in the Central Illinois Work Force, 1 Credit Hour

Researched the businesses in Central Illinois that use interior designers. Collected information by job shadowing various interior designers that fill different roles in the work force. Wrote a summary paper of findings and conclusions gathered.

FCS 299: Inclusive Design in VR Technology, 1 Credit Hour

Collaborated with three other students to explore a new VR technology called UNITY. Loaded a Revit project into the program to experience ADA and inclusive design. Created a Virtual Lab for students to experience inclusive design in VR. Designed a resource for future students to update and learn from the software developed in this project.

FCS 299: Proposed Construction Plans to Increase Inclusivity, 2 Credit Hours

Drew inspiration from working on the FCS diversity, equity, belonging, and inclusion (DEBI) committee to draft construction documents and plans to create a more inclusive Turner Hall. Proposed changes to an entrance, wayfinding abilities throughout the building, and changes to one of the largest classrooms. Construction plans were submitted to the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) competition.

HON 395 Thesis: Teacher Burnout, 1 Credit Hour

Thesis focused on teacher burnout and the factors that contribute to why a teacher may burnout within their career. Researched reasons contributing to the ongoing trend of teacher burnout, warning signs, and strategies to prevent burnout.



Honors Research examples in:

Finance, Insurance, and Law

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Finance, Insurance, and Law:

HON 285: Risks Associated with Facial Recognition, 3 Credit Hours

Researched focused on the emerging risks associated with facial recognition technology. Performed statistical analysis on relevant data sets. Final work products included a written report and presentation at the ISU Research Symposium.

FIL 299: Development of Skills Using R Data Software, 1 Credit Hour

Developed knowledge of and skills relating to the R data software to prepare for future research. Studied R data software through collaboration with faculty advisor and fellow students. Developed the ability to process data and run regressions in the R data software.

FIL 299: Effects of Cyber Insurance, 3 Credit Hours

Partnered with Illinois State Innovated Consulting Community to investigate the affect cyber insurance will have on each of five vastly different industries. Organized research into poster presented at the Illinois State University Research Symposium.



Honors Research examples in:

Geography, Geology, and the Environment

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Geography, Geology, and the Environment:

HON 286: Metasedimentary Rocks in the Marshfield Terrane, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on the development of a research paper on the Paleoproterozoic age for metasedimentary rocks in the Marshfield Terrane. Prepared paper to be published in a scientific journal.

HON 286: Mapping Water Policy in Local Water Departments, 1 Credit Hour

Gathered data from various water departments in the surrounding area and created an excel document to organize all data found for further use in mapping in a geographic information system to determine if there is a spatial pattern for "unfair" water policy.

HON 286: Water Shut-off Policy in Central Illinois, 3 Credit Hours

Conducted survey mapping and contacted water departments to gather information regarding their shut-off policies for when individuals fail to pay their bill. Focused on Central Illinois counties including both public and private water companies. Collaborated with research team on larger research project and worked independently on assigned portion of research.

GEO 299: Exhumation, Erosion, and Weathering in the Guadalupe Mountains, West Texas, and New Mexico, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on answering the question: where is erosion focused based on sediment grains that can be traced back to bedrock sources? Developed hypotheses and summarized methods of investigation. Focused on the Frantz magnetic separation and picking apatite minerals. Used microscope to examine mineral quality by measuring size, shape, and inclusions.

GEO 299: Python Coding & ArcGIS Software, 3 Credit Hours

Learned the basics of python coding and built tools in the ESRI ArcGIS software. Met with faculty mentor to develop skills in coding and acclimate to software. Put together a personal python code to run a program in ArcGIS. Completed a report detailing progress, mechanics, and taskwork.



Honors Research examples in:
Health Sciences

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Health Sciences:

HON 285: Health Related Patterns of the 8 Dimensions of Health, 1 Credit Hour

Completed human research training and developed research tools including research questions and interview questions. Created promotional materials to recruit participants and conducted interviews. Analyzed interview results specifically looking for health related patterns of the eight dimensions of health. Shared research findings at the ISU Research Symposium.

HON 286: Health Issues on ISU's Campus, 1 Credit Hour

Research project focused on analyzing interviews and photovoice submissions of research participants. Determined ways to promote awareness of health issues on ISU's campus. Developed several different modes of communication to present findings to students.

HON 286: Pregnancy and Exercise, 1 Credit Hour

Collaborated with faculty advisor to research pregnancy and exercise. Recruited, tested, and trained pregnant women in areas of exercise.

HSC 299: Vaccine Hesitancy on College Campuses, 6 Credit Hours

Conducted research on vaccine hesitancy of students on college campuses. Determined research questions, completed a literature review, designed study, recruited participants, collected and analyzed data, and shared findings.

HSC 299: A Panoramic Look at the Emergence of the Ebola Virus, 1 Credit Hour

Investigated the emergence of the Ebola virus timeline and where the in the world the Ebola virus is still prevalent. Completed a critique of the book Hot Zone by Richard Preston, as well as a literature review of current scientific data for the Ebola virus. Compared the current scientific methods used to diagnose Ebola with those methods described in the book. Presented findings in a paper format.



Honors Research examples in:

History

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of History:

HON 285: Marble Mines in North Africa, 3 Credit Hours

Researched and mapped out marble mines in north Africa to better understand the ancient Mediterranean marble trade. Researched and read books covering the topic of the marble mining in northern Africa and developed a presentation board of research findings.

HON 286: Mapping Ancient Marble, 1 Credit Hour

Worked closely with faculty advisor to learn how to use ArcGIS, a web-based mapping software. Worked on mapping ancient marble through the ArcGIS system.

HIS 299: Portrayal of Women's Work During World War II, 3 Credit Hours

Explored the historiography of how women's work in the United States was portrayed by the federal government and their contracted companies. Contrasted that against the realities of women's experiences during World War II. Reviewed how historians have approached cultural icons like Rosie the Riveter and analyzed the primary sources used in the historiography. Assessed how archives and museums are moving beyond the popular image to restore the histories of wage-earning women.

HIS 299: Bioethics Regarding Marginalized Peoples of Latin America, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated bioethics regarding marginalized peoples of Latin America. Utilized the tools of interviews, videos, and readings to investigate topic. Created a final product that followed the course of a proposed public policy initiative.



Honors Research examples in:
Information Technology

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Information Technology:

HON 285: Web Development Programming with Python, 2 Credit Hours

Research consisted of using a programming language called python in the context of web development. Reviewed the existing literature base on web development and completed group and individual elements each week.

HON 285: Exploration of Deep Learning, 1 Credit Hour

Gathered information regarding deep learning via literature reviews and lectures. Explored how to effectively work with deep learning and its overall effectiveness.

HON 286: How Diversity in STEM Fields Influences the Ethics of AI, 1 Credit Hour

Studied how the lack of diversity in the STEM fields connects with the ethics of AI. Investigated why it is important to increase diversity so AI can be ethical and representative of diverse perspectives and voices. Conducted a literature review and reported findings.

IT 299: Development of Mobile Applications for Android, 3 Credit Hours

Explored mobile application technologies and analyzed data to create mobile applications for Android programmed in Java and Android Studio. Began with smaller projects to learn fundamentals and increased project complexity. Developed skills to be self-sufficient in design, development, and deployment of small-scale applications.

IT 299: Investigation of Distributed Computing, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated distributed computing with a focus on cloud computing in AWS (Amazon Web Services). Researched one topic each week in collaboration with faculty advisor. Rewrote a modern web application to assist in grading based on knowledge learned from research.



Honors Research examples in:
Kinesiology and Recreation

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Kinesiology and Recreation:

HON 285: Collecting Health Data & Heart Rate Variability, 1 Credit Hour

Interacted with research participants and collected health data, specifically heart rate variability measures. Researched scientific literature to gather information from prior studies, cataloged and organized data. Developed science literacy skills and knowledge of research data software. Grew in interpersonal skills through interactions with clients and research participants.

HON 286: Metabolic, Physical Activity, and Body Composition Assessment, 1 Credit Hour

Worked with metabolic, physical activity, and body composition equipment to further refine skills to be a qualified operator. Participated in metabolic, physical activity levels, and body composition assessments as a tester for subjects enrolled in the research study. Involved subject scheduling, subject interaction, and explanation of results.

KNR 299: Development and Implementation of a Tailored Exercise Program for a Family Member, 1 Credit Hour

Developed and implemented a tailored exercise program for a family member. The program included pre-program evaluations such as barriers to exercise, intervention goals, body composition measurements, the program itself, and post-intervention evaluations. Utilized information learned in exercise psychology, physiological testing, and exercise programming classes.

KNR 299: Interactive Guide to Joint Palpitations, 1 Credit Hour

Created an interactive guide for palpitations for the shoulder, hip, ankle, and knee joints geared for use by physical therapists. Gained a better understanding of palpitations. Utilized various equipment that is used in rehabilitation interventions to assess change. Created hypothetical interventions for common injuries faced by athletes with associated exercise targets for affected muscles.

HON 395 Thesis: Accuracy of Self-Rated Repetitions in Reserve, 6 Credit Hours

Investigated the accuracy of self-rated "repetitions in reserve" (RIR) during resistance training, which allows individuals to utilize a system to standardize effort based on how close they are to muscular failure during a given set of exercise. Incorporated single-joint exercises and instructed participants in reporting RIR following each repetition.



Honors Research examples in:
Languages, Literature, and Cultures

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Languages, Literature, and Cultures:

LAN 299: Translating Latin to English, 1 Credit Hour

Explored Roman Emperor Nero by translating Latin documents to English. Met weekly with faculty advisor to collaborate on research progress and check accuracy of work. Assessed based on three exams testing for Latin proficiency via sight reading.

LAN 299: Analyzing the Use of Spanish in the Linguistic Landscape of Bloomington Normal Illinois, 2 Credit Hours

Research focused on the use of Spanish in the linguistic landscape of the twin municipalities of Bloomington and Normal. Utilized theoretical tools of ethnography to analyze the languages contained in signs from governmental and institutional sources versus those from the private sector. Studied the use of the Spanish language in these sources.

LAN 299: Translation of Japanese Short Stories to English, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on the translation of short stories by the prominent Japanese author Murakami Haruki into English. Project included the translation of two titles that have yet to be translated into English.

LAN 299: Development of French Lesson Plans, 3 Credit Hours

Developed weekly French lesson plans based on a different region of France each week. Studied each region's history, culture, and architecture to include culturally relevant information, grammar, and vocabulary terms in each lesson.



Honors Research examples in:
Management

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Management:

MGT 299: Development of a Business Problem Case Study, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on the development of a case study over a company's business problem or entrepreneurial effort. Wrote research paper detailing the body of the problem, including an appendix of evidence, and a position paper providing a solution to the problem.

MGT 299: Creation of Photography Small Business Plan, 3 Credit Hours

Developed a business plan to open a small business as a photographer. Created list of required equipment for practice, conducted pricing research to determine appropriate charge for services, completed a break-even analysis, and developed personal style. Project culminated in a formal presentation to the Means Center to be considered for a small business scholarship.

MGT 299: Theatre Company Business Plan, 1 Credit Hour

Created a thorough and intensive business plan for a theatre company. Developed skills of interdisciplinary learning and leadership development while collaborating with faculty advisor.



Honors Research examples in:

Marketing

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Marketing:

HON 285: Consulting on the Sale of NFL Stadium Suites, 1 Credit Hour

Worked on a team in collaboration with the Innovative Consulting Community to gain real-world consulting experience with an actual client, in this case a Midwest NFL team to enhance their hospitality options and promote sales of suites within their stadium. Researched unique solutions on how to promote various options of stadium suites, pitched and discussed ideas with the client and research team, and tailored work product to fit the client's needs.

HON 285: Interior Design on a Children's Ballet Interactive Area Research Team, 3 Credit Hours

Worked as an interior designer on a Joffrey Ballet children's interactive area research team and submitted final work product to client.

HON 285: Expert Interviews & Client Education, 1 Credit Hour

Collaborated with a team to provide marketing services to a real-world client. Conducted research consisting of interviews with experts, including supply chain experts and climate scientists, and potential users of the client's products. Completed a written summary and analysis of findings as well as a presentation to the client at the conclusion of research. Special interest was devoted to providing additional information regarding how organizations are changing to reduce their impact on the environment while still meeting consumer needs.

MKT 299: Merchandise Line for the Joffrey Ballet, 1 Credit Hour

Developed and implemented a merchandise line for the Joffrey Ballet. Conducted research on consumer preferences and became more comfortable with theories in marketing.

MKT 299: The Turnover Rate of Sales Jobs: Factors & Effects, 1 Credit Hour

Researched the turnover rate surrounding sales jobs in the current economy. Identified key existing factors that influence the job turnover rate in the market. Investigated why companies measure turnover rate and what that means for each organization.



Honors Research examples in:

Mathematics

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Mathematics:

HON 285: Classroom Instruction, 1 Credit Hour

Supported data collection and analysis in multiple classrooms. Took detailed field notes, posed follow up questions to students, and watched videos of lessons that occurred during the previous semester to become familiar with the approach, the students, and their strategy.

HON 285: Platonic Solids in Chemistry and Physics, 1 Credit Hour

Researched platonic solids, their history, their practical applications in the fields of science, and their importance in chemistry and nuclear physics. Developed skills related to mathematical research, interdisciplinary skills of writing and analyzing findings, and discovered the intersection of history and math.

HON 286: Literature Review & Development of Graph Theory, 6 Credit Hours

Reviewed literature "On the Integer-Magic Spectra of Maximal Planar and Maximal Outerplanar Graphs", asked and filtered questions, searched for answers, and developed a summary paper of findings. Improved research literacy and knowledge of graph theory.

MAT 299: Legislation Regarding Rating Models for Insurers, 1 Credit Hour

Researched the topic of fairness in rating models and regulations that require insurers to show their models are not biased towards protected characteristics. Examined the legislature in Colorado that requires insurers to use the BIFSG method to impute race before running models to determine biases. Researched consequences for noncompliance and applied the BIFSG method to a sample dataset.

MAT 299: Intersection of Graph Theory & Statistics in Minecraft, 3 Credit Hours

Studied the intersection of graph theory, probability, and statistics through the lens of Minecraft speed running to form graph models using algorithmic path finding. Developed skills of creative productivity and critical thinking. Project culminated in a written paper summarizing findings and key concepts learned.



Honors Research examples in:

Music

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Music:

HON 285: Music in Early Childhood Education, 3 Credit Hours

Researched why music is essential in early childhood classrooms for young children's development. Gained knowledge of the importance of music programs in schools and developed advocacy skills for protecting music programs in schools.

MUS 299: Wind Ensemble Conducting, 2 Credit Hours

Research focused on developing skills of wind ensemble conducting. Built skills of score study, interpretive decision making, critical listening, and informed movement.

MUS 299: Effective Teaching of the Cello, 2 Credit Hours

Completed a one-on-one survey of Suzuki literature on how to teach cello, and important techniques and skills. Researched diverse cello repertoire. Learned how to teach cello techniques and overcome common problems that arise. Investigated literature that related to cello technique. Created a digital portfolio of research findings regarding how to teach cello lessons to advance students and scaffold their learning while identifying trends and concerns in playing.

HON 395 Thesis: Francisco Franco's Regime on Music, 1 Credit Hour

Thesis focused on studying the influence of Francisco Franco's authoritarian regime on music production and distribution in Spain. Contextualized the Francoist regime, researched policies in terms of propaganda and media, and connected trends to the compositions of the time period.

HON 395 Thesis: Creating Culturally Responsive Educational Materials for Opera Productions with Problematic Material, 2 Credit Hours

Conducted a comprehensive study on how opera companies can implement educational components into productions that have problematic material. Utilized the Seattle Opera as a case study to examine the culturally responsible steps the organization took to create context and showcase better representation. Selected an opera with problematic material and created an educational and cultural component that could be presented alongside the production.



Honors Research examples in:
Nursing

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Nursing:

NUR 299: Mental Health in Nursing Students at ISU, 1 Credit Hour

Research built on previous Honors Contract. Utilized surveys to find the biggest stressors and impacts on mental health for nursing students. Created a work product including information and resources for current and future nursing students at Illinois State. Hosted mindfulness sessions with students and analyzed results on mental health.

NUR 299: Safe Haven Protocol at ISU, 1 Credit Hour

Developed a simulation of what would happen if a baby was brought to Illinois State's campus. Completed background research and specific trainings necessary. Created a product to educate university staff members on Safe Haven procedures. Conducted a trial with the University police station to ensure knowledge of Safe Haven protocols.

NUR 299: The Effect of Deinstitutionalization on Individuals Living with Mental Illness, 1 Credit Hour

Explored the deinstitutionalization movement's effect on mental health. Focused on the impact on the rehospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness of those living with mental illness. Project was made up of literature reviews of scholarly articles, books, and documentaries.

NUR 299: Resources for Oncology/Cancer Patients, 1 Credit Hour

Developed a binder of resources related to the care of oncology/cancer patients. The binder included new research, pain relief methods and information, personal research on the different kinds of chemotherapy, and information regarding different types of cancers.

NUR 299: Education to Avoid Readmission to Psychiatric Units, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on at risk individuals for mental health disorders and psychiatric unit admission. Researched likelihood of readmission and how to best provide aftercare resources. Created a pamphlet for patients being discharged from care on how to access resources and avoid readmission to a psychiatric unit. Lead a group education meeting with patients.



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Honors Research examples in:

Philosophy

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Philosophy:

PHI 299: The Rhetorical Power of Silence and Physical Absence, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on the rhetorical power of silence and physical absence. Examined how this tool is used in relation to philosophical work. Research culminated in a poster presented at the ISU Research Symposium.

PHI 299: The Role of Emotions in Rational Decision Making, 3 Credit Hours

Conducted research in conjunction with PHI 315 with a focus on the philosophy of emotions. Explored the literature beyond what is discussed in the course to develop a research paper on the role that emotions play in rational decision making.



Honors Research examples in:

Physics

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Physics:

HON 286: Python Programing, 1 Credit Hour

Contributed Python programming language expertise to help construct models for projects in the research group.

HON 286: Computational Physics for Theoretical Experiments, 1 Credit Hour

Contributed to a computational physics model for a theoretical experiment and lent efforts to various projects within the research group.

HON 286: Computer Programing in Physics Concepts, 1 Credit Hour

Applied knowledge of computer programing to build models of physics problems. Grew in knowledge of physics concepts in quantum field theory and computational methods to solve problems. Participated in the Intense Laser Physics Theory Group and contributed to models written in python.

HON 286: Dynamics of Neuronal Systems, 2 Credit Hours

Research focused on using computer simulations to mimic the dynamics of neuronal systems that are sensitive to temperature changes and apply findings to the behavior of the nematode *C. elegans* in temperature gradients. Developed confidence as an independent researcher and built knowledge in neuroscience and programming.

PHY 299: Remote Synchronization of Neurons, 3 Credit Hours

Researched remote synchronization of neurons and studied how neurons communicate with each other through intermediate systems. Ran simulations using C++ and Python to understand remote synchronization and performed graphical analysis using Gnu plot.

PHY 299: Sequential Infiltration Synthesis, 1 Credit Hour

Studied sequential infiltration synthesis of silicon dioxide material for advanced nano patterning. Participated in weekly meetings and performed hands-on experiments.



Honors Research examples in:
Politics and Government

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Politics and Government:

POL 299: Significance of Landmark ACLU Cases, 3 Credit Hours

Studied landmark American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) cases and examined the case details, individuals involved in each case, the reason for each court decision, and the significance of each landmark case. Developed a summary of each case and compiled research into a cumulative paper.

POL 299: Intellectual Property Law & Generative AI, 1 Credit Hour

Research built on a previous Honors Contract and focused on generative AI and its implications for copyright. Investigated AI's theoretical intellectual property rights within the philosophical framework that intellectual property law tends to draw from. Project culminated in a poster presentation for the ISU Research Symposium and a ten-page paper.

POL 299: Impact of Electoral Assistance on Democratic Elections, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated the impact of electoral assistance on the ability of countries in Africa to conduct free and fair democratic elections. Examined the effectiveness of enabling and supporting national governments to sustainably conduct democratic elections for the long-term, beyond the scope of direct external assistance. Research encompassed assistance provided by a number of institutions, including the United Nations and the African Union.

POL 299: Democratization in Mexico, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on investigating the democratization in Mexico from the 1990s to the 2000s, with particular focus on the judiciary, or supreme court, and how it established itself as a politically independent institution.

POL 299: Analyzing the Treatment of Female Supreme Court Justice Nominations, 3 Credit Hours

Built upon a previous Honors Contract to further explore the treatment of female Supreme Court justices during their nomination and confirmation process in the Senate and the media. Researched descriptions of female Supreme Court justices used in the media during the week of their confirmation hearings. Collected data from articles published to major publications during that time frame and wrote a research paper describing findings.



Honors Research examples in:

Psychology

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Psychology:

HON 285: Expanding Comprehension in Preschool Children, 1 Credit Hour

Research goal was to understand preschool children's expanding comprehension and production of cardinal, ordinal, and spatial labels by using two simple car tasks: give me and tell me. Parents completed a demographic survey and child language checklist. Weekly tasks focused on recruitment, data collection, coding, entry, and informal presentation of findings.

HON 285: Development of Resilience in Young Children, 3 Credit Hours

Research goal was to understand the development of resilience in young children. Completed 9 hours of research activity per week, including attending a weekly laboratory meeting and 8 lab hours. Meetings included training in experimental ethics and methods and discussion of ongoing projects and related findings. Lab hours focused on recruitment, data collection, coding, and entry, as well as presentation of our findings at the ISU Research Symposium.

HON 286: Emotional Regulation Through Music, 3 Credit Hours

Research focused on regulating emotions through listening to music and talking with others. In-person data collection with participants was completed as a part of HON 285. In HON 286, continued with data collection and developed a proposal for a research study to be conducted the following semester. Was responsible for (a) coding qualitative data, (b) working with statistical software, (c) reading the relevant literature, (d) discussing the research during meetings with the faculty supervisor, and (e) writing a brief paper based on the study.

PSY 299: Autoethnography of Personal Experiences, 6 Credit Hours

Wrote an autoethnography discussing personal experiences with mental and physical health, identity, and culture. Referenced scholarly literature and research to provide insight relating to intersectional experiences.

HON 395 Thesis: Effects of Parental Warmth and Harshness on Children's Resilience, 3 Credit Hours

Thesis focused on researching how parental warmth and harshness are related to resilience among 4- and 5-year-old children. Developed specific research questions and coding schemes related to children's language. Analyzed parent surveys and video recordings of children completing complex puzzles. Documented findings in relation to hypothesis and research questions.



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Honors Research examples in:

Social Work

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Social Work:

SWK 299: Substance Abuse Among Pregnant Women, 2 Credit Hours

Examined the issue of substance abuse, specifically methamphetamine use, among pregnant women. Developed research skills and gained a better understanding for the substance abuse concentration within social work.



Honors Research examples in:

Sociology

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Sociology:

HON 285: Experimental Social Interaction 1 Credit Hour

Collaborated with faculty advisor on ongoing research regarding experimental social interaction. Analyzed data and created a poster for the ISU research symposium.

HON 286: Transcribing and Coding Data on Childhood Rebellion, 1 Credit Hour

Research consisted of transcribing and coding collected interview data for a study about childhood rebellion. Continued developing a presentation what was accepted to the International Sociological Meetings in Toronto that focused on the methodological tactics used in current research study.

HON 395 Thesis: Stories of Performers of Color in the Circus, 3 Credit Hours

Examined the experience of people of color in the modern U.S. circus, focusing on granting performers of color control over telling their own story. Studied engagement of the wider circus community within research results. Utilized photo voice and participatory photo research in which performers were given cameras and encourage to photograph their own worlds, identifying the assets and challenges of their circus community. Facilitated interviews and focus groups to provide space for discussion and collaboration leading to a culminating exhibition displayed at the Women & Gender Studies gallery.



Honors Research examples in:
Special Education

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Special Education:

HON 285: Mentorship and Support for First-Year Teachers, 1 Credit Hour

Researched how universities mentor and support teachers, specifically focusing on what concerns and supports are needed in the field of special education for first-year educators. Coded research from literature reviews and drew comparisons across published literature.

SED 299: Special Education Assistive Technology Center, 1 Credit Hour

Created a presentation to inform special education students at Illinois State about the Special Education Assistive Technology Center and the resources available. Presented work product to many special education courses.

SED 299: Sustainable Teaching Practice, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on developing sustainable teaching practice aligned with personal values. Learned about how others developed work practices that respect and honor their humanity, how to enact values within a school context where colleagues have opposing values, and what honoring and respecting personal humanity means. Developed strategies to incorporate sustainable teaching practice.

SED 299: Workshop on Ableism in Academic Settings, 2 Credit Hours

Created an accessible professional development workshop for educators using the texts "Butterfly Cage" by Rachel Zemach and "Academic Ableism" by Jay T. Dolmage. Workshop provided teachers the opportunity to make connections, acknowledge biases, and learn how to best advocate for their students through thematic analysis.

SED 299: Play in Early Childhood Development for Students with Perceived Language Disabilities, 1 Credit Hour

Researched the importance of play in early childhood development for students with perceived language disabilities. Final work product included guidelines and resources for early childhood education teachers to aid in navigating how to effectively implement play in their classrooms.



Honors Research examples in:
Teaching and Learning

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Teaching and Learning:

TCH 299: Designing a Unit Plan to Highlight Inclusivity, 1 Credit Hour

Explored the art and lives of female artists to create a unit plan that showcases these female artists. Researched the importance of teaching students about a wide variety of artists. Designed the unit plan so that students will create a project that involves components of these female artists and highlight the importance of inclusivity.

TCH 299: Interactive Webpage on the Reading Wars, 3 Credit Hours

Research built off a previous Honors Contract of a webpage discussing the Reading Wars and how to teach reading and expanded to include multilingual learners. Developed the webpage to be an interactive resource for future teacher candidates who want an unbiased source on the reading debate. Included videos and interviews expressing multiple perspectives and views across educators.

TCH 299: Investigating Course Topics in Clinical Experiences, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated a wide variety of topics from TCH 296 clinicals. Addressed a new topic every two weeks via a two-page paper for each topic. Discussed topics including classroom organization, student diversity, curriculum, instructional strategies/practices, assessment practices, accommodations and modifications, and middle school concepts.

TCH 299: Integrating Content Areas in Unit Planning, 3 Credit Hours

Research consisted of building a unit plan that spanned one to two weeks including subject areas from other classes including science, social studies, and literacy. Researched differentiation and accommodations with different types of learners with a focus on researching curriculum in different content and subject areas.

TCH 299: Publication of Children's Book, 3 Credit Hours

Explored the creative writing process to create a children's book. Brainstormed ideas, completed the pre-writing process, analyzed mentor texts, and investigated research on social issue topics incorporated into the children's book. Developed book's style including illustrations. Revised and edited children's book before diving into the publication process. Final product consisted of the completed children's book, a lesson plan utilizing the book, and a reflection journal from throughout the research process.



Honors Research examples in:

Technology

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Technology:

HON 285: Placement and Curation of Concrete, 1 Credit Hour

Research focused on the placing, curing, and testing of concrete and concrete solutions. Assisted in the placement of, curing, and testing of concrete and recording appropriate data. Organized and analyzed data collection.

HON 286: Importance of Hands-On Learning for Engineering Technology Majors, 1 Credit Hour

Investigated the issue of decreasing motivation in undergraduate students in the major of engineering technology following remote learning. Research questions included how educators can help improve students' remote learning by offering a sense of touch. Research focused on CAD models of testing rigs, assembly instructions, and construction of the in-person model.

TEC 299: Material Estimation for Residential Housing, 1 Credit Hour

Estimated materials needed for a residential house. Learned and utilized a quantity takeoff software to explore materials needed for the home. Developed a spreadsheet of materials needed including types and amounts of each material.

TEC 299: Data Analysis of Insurance Fraud, 3 Credit Hours

Investigated insurance fraud based on data analysis as a continuation of a project completed in an advanced honors seminar. Examined the frequency of false claims and if given data can find any trends that suggest a claim may be false or is worth further investigation into its legitimacy.



Honors Research examples in:
Theatre, Dance, and Film

The following are examples of previous research experiences that represent how you can expand your learning in the field of Theatre and Dance:

THE 299: Development of Directing Portfolio, 1 Credit Hour

Project consisted of creating a directing portfolio based on experiences as an assistant director at the Illinois Festival Opera during an Opera Practicum Performance.

THE 299: Exploration of Textile Manipulations, 2 Credit Hours

An exploration of textile manipulations including a variety of dye, dye techniques, and textile painting. Research culminated in designing and creating manipulated textile yardage.

THE 299: Recording a Complete Audiobook, 2 Credit Hours

Research focused on increasing knowledge of basic sound production and associated programs with sound production. Recorded a complete audiobook of Farming on The Oxbow, a collection of stories from family members. Utilized the software Reaper to record and edit audiobook.

THE 299: Documenting Production of the School of Theatre & Dance's Legally Blonde, 3 Credit Hours

Developed a monograph for the School of Theatre & Dance's Legally Blonde production while working as the assistant technical director. The modified monograph featured pre-production processes such as rough budgeting and material analysis, discussion of implementation through technical procedures, review of collaboration, as well as feedback and observations following the show closing. Included photographs documenting the pre-production process and construction of the scenic design.