

This booklet will answer some frequently asked questions about the Honours Program; if you have any other questions or just want to talk about the program, please speak to the Honours Coordinator, Dr. Esther Wohlgemut (566-0689, [ewohlgemut@upei.ca](mailto:ewohlgemut@upei.ca))

Please note: This brochure is meant as a general guide. In places where it is in disagreement with the University's calendar, the calendar has precedence.

### 1. What is an Honours degree in English?

- It offers a thorough grounding in English literary and language studies;
- It allows the student to develop an area of independent study through the Honours thesis;
- It sets a higher bar for students to meet.

### 2. Why pursue an Honours degree in English?

There are many reasons, the most important of which is your love of literature and words and your desire to know as much as possible about the range and variety of writing in English;

- You enjoy the challenge of independent work;
- You want employers to see that you go beyond the minimum requirements, and that you work well on your own;
- You may be thinking of graduate studies or a professional degree.

### 3. What is the difference between an English Major and English Honours?

- Both degrees allow students to explore the diverse range of literature in English from a variety of perspectives, but the Honours requires more English courses: 66 credits in English rather than the 51 credits in English required by the Major.
- The Honours requires courses in both literary theory and linguistics.
- The Honours degree requires completion of the Honours thesis, which gives you a chance to develop an area of interest while working closely with one professor.
- Students working on an Honours are expected to achieve consistently higher grades.

### 4. What do I need *before* I apply?

- Completion of English 1210, 1220, 2040 and 2960:
- An average of at least 75% in English courses at the time of application; normally, students will need to maintain an average of 80% or more on their English courses to be accepted. Admission to the program will be competitive, and because the demand for the program will likely exceed the faculty resources available, not all applicants who meet the formal admission requirements will be accepted into the Honours Program.

5. **How do I apply?**

- You meet with the Honours Coordinator.
- You fill out an application form, available through the English Department website or through the Department Administrative Assistant or the Honours Coordinator, and append a copy of your degree audit, and submit these.
- The English Department meets and votes on your application based on your transcript and on the availability of space in the program.

6. **Are there deadlines?**

Yes. While there can be exceptions to this schedule, normally the student is expected to meet the following deadlines:

End of 2nd year or beginning of 3rd year	Apply to Honours Program
End of 3rd year	Establish a supervisor and submit supervisor's name to Honours Coordinator.
Fall of 4th year	Register in English 4960. Meet with supervisor to design the guide/syllabus/contract for this course. In consultation with the supervisor, choose departmental reader and external reader to sit on the examining committee for Honours thesis. Submit these names to Honours Coordinator.
September – October of 4th year	Submit thesis proposal and working bibliography to Honours Coordinator for approval by the department.

Winter of 4th year	Register in English 4970. Begin writing Honours thesis according to schedule set in consultation with supervisor.
End of winter term of 4th year	Submit completed Honours thesis to examining committee.
April of 4th year	Supervisor schedules discussion of the thesis with the student and the committee.

7. **What English courses do I need?**

An Honours English student must complete 120 semester hours of credit, including the prerequisite courses and the following minimal requirements in English:

- English 1210, 1220, 2040, and 2960 (12 credits)
- Four Pre-1900 English courses *\*One of the courses must be a Shakespeare course* (12 credits)
- English Language and Linguistics (3 credits)
- Literary Theory (3 credits)
- Two 4000-Level Courses (6 credits)
- Eight English Electives (24 credits)
- English 4960 (3 credits)
- English 4970 (3 credits)

8. **What is the Honours Tutorial (English 4960)?**

- This is an intensive tutorial course in the area of the student's Honours thesis, under the direction of the student's supervisor. The Honours Tutorial is developed by the student and supervisor, and approved by the department as a whole. As part of this course, students will be required to produce a substantive proposal for their Honours thesis. Other requirements may include annotated bibliographies, preliminary draft work, reading journals, essays. This course is a prerequisite for English 4970.

9. **What is the Honours Thesis (English 4970)?**

- The Honours Thesis is a substantial work (normally an essay of 8,000 to 10,000 words) on a subject selected by the student and approved by the English Department. The thesis is written under the supervision of a member of the English Department. After submitting the thesis, the student meets with a three-member committee consisting of the supervisor, a second reader from the English Department, and an outside examiner, usually from another academic department at the University. Following a discussion of the thesis with the student, the committee agrees on a final grade. Students must complete English 4960 before beginning 4970.

10. **How do I choose a topic and a supervisor?**

- When you have an idea about your subject, find out who in the English Department can help you best.

Once you have found a willing supervisor and a topic, you submit a proposal and working bibliography to the English Department for approval.

11. **What happens after the thesis proposal is accepted?**

- You register in English 4960 in September of the academic year in which you write the thesis; in the winter term, you register in 4970 and complete writing the thesis.
- The arrangements for supervision and deadlines are worked out between the student and the supervisor, but you will probably meet weekly for an hour or so.

12. **What else do I need for the degree?**

- 40 courses (120 credits), including the Honours thesis.
- An average of 75% in all required English courses, and 70% overall.

13. **What happens after the Honours Thesis has been completed?**

- The Honours thesis or creative writing project is sent out to the examining committee. The Honours student, the supervisor, and the other two readers on the examining committee meet to discuss the thesis.
- For creative projects, students normally present some of their work and answer questions in a public reading.
- After the thesis has been completed, the student is responsible for submitting one hard copy and one digital copy along with a signed “permission to use Honours thesis” form to the English Department Administrative Assistant. The form can be found here:  
[..\Honours\LibraryPermission\\_honourpaper \(1\).pdf](..\Honours\LibraryPermission_honourpaper (1).pdf)

14. **Can I graduate with a Major in English and go back to get an Honours afterwards?**

- Yes.
- You must apply again as a student at UPEI.
- Once you complete all the Honours requirements, you receive a conversion certificate, and your university transcript records you as a graduate in the Honours Program.

15. **Once I’ve been accepted, how should I keep track of my programme?**

- You are responsible for ensuring that the requirements for your programme are completed by the time you want to graduate. You are encouraged to double check that you’re on the right track by meeting the Honours Coordinator once a year, and by running a degree audit (in HonEng) through the MyUPEI Web Page.

16. **Where can I go for more information?**

- Talk to the Honours Coordinator, Dr. Esther Wohlgenut ([ewohlgenut@upei.ca](mailto:ewohlgenut@upei.ca)) English Department, Main 218; phone 902-566-0689).