

**International Studies Honors Program
Requirements
(Effective December 2007)**

The International Studies program has designed the Honors program to single out exceptional students for special recognition at graduation. Qualifying students graduate with degrees of Latin praise. These degrees are *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*.

To qualify for an honors degree students must have a G.P.A. of at least 3.5 in their courses taken at CU, have taken independent study course requiring a research paper, and submitted an honors paper to a faculty committee for evaluation. The faculty committee, in consultation with the director of the International Studies Program, will determine the level of Latin praise based on the student's course work and the quality of the paper. Students with a G.P.A. of 3.7 in their International Studies courses are eligible for *magna cum laude* and those with 3.9 for *summa cum laude*. Students should note that a given G.P.A. does not guarantee Latin praise. Likewise the successful completion of the Honors Research Paper is only one of the requirements necessary to receive honors and it does not obligate the department to grant a student Latin praise. For example, the honors committee may decide that a student with a 3.7 G.P.A. does not merit honors or only merits *cum laude* based on the student's paper.

Students will prepare their paper under the supervision of a faculty member as part of an Independent Study course. The student must fill out an independent study contract with his or her professor and fulfill the requirements that are outlined in the contract. This faculty member will serve as the student's principal advisor. You must write a research prospectus describing your topic and outlining the project before you begin the course. The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to design and carry out an original research project. The honors committee will examine the paper for evidence of the student's capacity to think originally, investigate creatively, and write well. For citation and bibliography style students should consult Kate Turabian, A

Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. The paper should be about 10,000 words long (about 30 pages of text and footnotes in a standard format). In other words, the paper should be the size of a standard academic article. Furthermore students are encouraged to include non-English sources in their paper to strengthen the international perspectives in the project.

Plan ahead! The honors paper is not a term paper! The program expects the paper to be a polished final article, not an interesting rough draft that you might finish up in the future. The purpose of the Independent study course is to require that students dedicate a minimum of fifteen weeks to researching, writing and editing a top quality work. This means that you should begin this paper before your graduation semester. Do not wait for your last semester to approach a faculty member with a project. To encourage planning ahead, students must submit a research prospectus to their advisor the semester before the semester in which they intend to graduate. A prospectus is a short, simple document that states the research problem you will study and how you will do it. In other words, include a description of your topic and a preliminary list of sources that you plan to use. The prospectus is not a complete description of your finished project and we expect your sources to expand and your points of view to change as your research progresses. In other words, do not hesitate to pursue a facet of your topic or a source that did not mention in your prospectus.

A committee of three faculty members who are familiar with the student's course work will evaluate the honors paper. The committee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the work as a final element of the evaluation process. The committee will vote on whether the student deserves Latin praise and, if so, the level of that praise. The decision will be made by majority vote.

LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

- 1). A 3.5 G.P.A. in CU-Denver courses.
- 2). Submit a research prospectus to your advisor the semester before you plan to graduate at the latest.
- 3). Demonstrate excellent work in the Independent Study under the direction of the student's principal faculty advisor.
- 4). An honors paper prepared under the supervision of a program member and evaluated by a committee of three faculty members.
- 5). An evaluation meeting with the student and the committee to discuss the paper.
- 6). Fill out the attached application form.

Note: The deadline for completion of all requirements is the final week of the student's last semester. Please note that students who wish to have their honors noted in the program of the graduation ceremony must complete all of the requirements seven weeks before graduation. They also should notify the program advisor of their intention to compete for honors as early as possible.

International Studies Program

I believe I qualify and I want to be considered for International Studies honors. I have spoken with the following professor who has agreed to direct my Independent Study

Professor _____ Department _____ in the _____ semester.

In addition to the above professor, I have taken classes from the following faculty members. (Two individuals from this list will participate in your honors evaluation committee). You have an obligation to discuss your project with all the members of the honors committee at the earliest possible date.

Professor

Professor

Professor

When do you plan to graduate? _____

Have you submitted a research prospectus? _____, if not when do you plan to do so? _____

Proposed date to submit a draft of the paper: _____

Name _____ Student Number _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Please return to the International Studies Director