

Template for Honors Thesis Proposal in the Department of Theater, revised June 2019

*This template is intended for the **full proposal**, due the first week of the fall term of the student's senior year. Consult the department website for guidelines on the preliminary proposal, due in mid-May of the student's junior spring; the preliminary proposal is a streamlined, shorter version of the full proposal.*

Please use this template as a guide to convey the scope of your proposed project to the faculty. Honors thesis projects in the Department of Theater take many forms and are often quite unique; your thesis advisor will help you to adapt this template to suit your specific project. Be sure to develop your ideas in collaboration with your advisor and be sure to pass a draft of your proposal through them (and allow time for necessary revisions) before submitting. The faculty will be voting on the full proposals early in the fall term of the student's senior year.

Introduction

You're encouraged to write an engaging introduction that conveys a sense of your excitement about this project; in the past, students have used a personal anecdote or a specific passage from the proposed play as a gateway for the larger proposal. The introduction should also contain a succinct 1-2 paragraph description of your proposed project.

Project description

Whereas the introduction provides a "snapshot" of your project; this section should offer a much more detailed description that will provide the faculty with a sense of its depth and breadth.

The following questions are meant to provide guidance in the crafting of this section; answer only those questions that are most pertinent to your project:

- How do you define your project? For example, do you define it as a project in directing, acting, design, playwriting, scholarship, or a combination of two (or perhaps more) of these areas? If your project is primarily creative in scope, please note that, in keeping with our liberal arts focus, we strongly encourage projects that seek to integrate scholarship and research into the creative process.
- Describe artistic, historical, or theoretical questions you hope to address through your honors thesis project.
- What are the parts of your project?
 - For example, a directing project will provide an overview of a production concept for the performance/play that you are planning. An acting project should narrate the roles/play/performance you are proposing. A design project should explain the play/area of specialization/idea you are planning to focus on. A research project will need to describe your methodologies or theoretical frameworks in addressing your subject.
 - Be specific about the role you will take in the project: will you be directing, writing, acting, designing, researching, etc.? Know that the faculty understands you may want to focus your project in one particular area and will likely need to recruit other collaborators to help execute your project.
- Describe why this should be an honors thesis project as opposed to an SAS, independent study, or other type of opportunity. Be sure to make a case for how the honors thesis framework (two terms) serves your particular idea.

Learning Goals

Explain how your project builds upon and expands your studies in theater over the past three years. The following questions are meant to provide guidance as you craft this section.

- What do you hope to learn or discover about theater through this project?

- How does this project relate to all the coursework you have completed thus far or will complete in the summer of your junior year?
 - What strengths do you bring to the project because of your past coursework, theater experiences, or creative activity?
- How does this project compliment any type of theater activity that you have participated in thus far? (student productions or department activity)
- What unique opportunities in theater does this project help you engage in and explore?
- How is this project going to challenge you in creative, scholarly, or a combination of both manners?
- You might describe how this project contributes to your plans after Dartmouth.
 - How will the project strengthen areas you plan to pursue upon graduation?
 - How will the project help you expand and/or synthesize your studies in Theater?

Logistics (if applicable)

This section could address more specific details about execution for your project, especially if it involves production of any kind. *In developing this section, students should consult carefully the categories of production support available for honors thesis presentations (developmental reading, Studio Lab, workshop, and fully produced). Also, in writing this section, students are encouraged to be mindful that the department seeks to balance the student's educational goals with the available resources of the department, particularly staff support.*

- What support will you need for your project in terms of collaborators (from the department or from peers)? What category of production support are you requesting?
- What space (if applicable) would you prefer to use for your project? Offer an explanation for your choice.
- Will your project need financial support of some kind to help realize it? This could include thoughts about execution for production or research.

Timeline

We encourage a narrative that describes your project in terms of chronological time. What will you be doing and when? Again, providing details that are important to your conception is encouraged in this section, as it will help us provide supportive feedback and plan ahead to help you.

We also suggest including a “bulleted” timeline to help us see the project’s rough shape. Below is an example for a bulleted timeline of activity for a directing project. This type of timeline could follow your narrative timeline. The example below can be modified for many types of projects. Nevertheless, it should give you an idea of the kind of detail that is desirable:

- Summer Term (20XX)
 - background reading and research for production
 - *list possible texts here*
 - Conservatory training at LAMDA, FSP Summer 2013 (if applicable)
 - Anything else you might have done in the Summer term to prepare
- Fall Term (20XX)
 - Script preparation
 - Research
 - *list what you might research here*
 - Design work
 - Research
 - Collaborating with designers
- Winter Term (20XX)

- Build for production (set, costumes, lighting)
- Casting
- Rehearsals
- Marketing
- Performance

Conclusion

A conclusion should help to bring your proposal to a satisfying close; do not simply restate your project but offer some parting thoughts about what this project means to you.

Bibliography

Honors projects benefit from research of many kinds. We encourage you to provide a preliminary bibliography of texts, sources, images, videos, artworks, productions, and other materials (archives, reviews, primary or secondary sources, etc.) that would potentially inform the ambitions of your project. Please use MLA or Chicago style.

Appendix

Possible sections to include here:

- Script: For original scripts, you should include an attachment of the script-in-progress. For established scripts, either include an attachment or provide a link to an online version.
- Any other additional information that will help us gain a good perspective of your project is encouraged as an appendix material.