

## Application Guidelines

Applications are due by 5 PM on May 1st. There are 6 required documents; email all but No. 2 (below) to the Honors Director ([maia.mcaleavey@bc.edu](mailto:maia.mcaleavey@bc.edu)). Required documents include:

1. An [application form](#), including a list of relevant English courses.
2. A **letter of support from your prospective advisor**, emailed separately by your advisor to the Honors Program Director. This letter should make clear that your prospective advisor knows and approves your plans for the proposed thesis, and agrees to supervise it.
3. A **prospectus** of 2-3 pages. The prospectus is a road-map of your project, whether critical or creative. If the project is critical, the prospectus may suggest its theoretical approach. It should clearly state what texts you will take up, and to what end. Further, it should make clear what kind(s) of preparation you have, either in your coursework or beyond, to undertake the project. Here is an example of the [critical prospectus](#).

A creative prospectus also lays out the scope of the project, as well as its proposed form. Many writers like to start the prospective with a paragraph or two written in the “voice” of the work proposed—a scene from the imagined novel; an introductory paragraph of the proposed memoir. Recent proposals in [poetry](#), [fiction](#), and [creative nonfiction](#).

4. **An annotated reading list.**  
The number of articles and books will vary and should be worked out with your advisor, but should give the committee a sense of your proposed research. Make clear which works you have already read, and which you plan to read. Creative writers should include at least 2 books addressing craft and/or the revision process. Writers often include several books that have been inspiring or influential in their writing process.

In addition to the author and title, be sure to include 2-3 sentences of your own commentary for each book, creative or critical, on your annotated reading list. Why is this book or article important for your project? If you haven’t yet read it, how do you think you may use it? If you already know the work in question, how has it influenced your thinking? Here you can find some sample [Annotated reading lists](#) for both critical and creative projects.

5. **Writing Sample**

If you're proposing a critical thesis, a 10-15 page critical paper is most helpful. It doesn't have to be on the same subject as the project you're proposing, but it helps the committee to see a work that demonstrates a sustained argument. Writing samples are read carefully to help determine your preparation to undertake a long, independent research project. If you're proposing a creative project, it's important to submit work in the genre you've proposed. 10-15 pages is recommended.

6. **A pdf of your transcript**

Your transcript needs to include the names of courses taken as well as course numbers, and grades for all courses, including fall semester of junior year. The Honors Committee occasionally asks applicants to submit spring grades.

**Timeline: Applications are due May 1st by 5 PM. The Honors Committee reserves the right not to process late or incomplete applications.**

Applicants are notified of their application status by mid-May. Accepted applicants register for ENGL 6600.01 during drop-add period in the first week of fall semester.