

**Thesis/Creative Projects in School of Film, Dance and Theatre
Honors Classes and Enrichment Contracts**

I. General Information

1. Any Barrett student who is considering a major in Film or Theatre in the School of Film, Dance and Theatre should make an appointment as soon as possible with the Honors Faculty Advisor:

Oscar Giner, Professor
Barrett Honors College Theater and Film Advisor
School of Film, Dance and Theater
Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts
P.O. Box 872002
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Tempe, AZ 8527-2002
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2. The required committee structure for the Barrett thesis/creative project has changed, effective Fall 2013. The minimum number of committee members will be two (rather than three), a director and second committee member. The director **MUST** be an ASU lecturer or tenure-line faculty member.
3. Six (6) credit hours are the maximum amount of credit hours allowed in the SoFDT for the Honors Thesis/Creative Project. Students have the option of taking three (3) credit hours for FMP 492 or THE 492 Honors Directed Study in their junior year or first semester of their senior year. They are required to conduct their thesis/creative project in their junior or senior year by taking three (3) credit hours for FMP 493 or THE 493 Honors Thesis. FMP or THE 493 require a successful completion of the thesis/creative project and a formal defense before the student's committee.
4. Prior to enrolling in FMP/THE HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. This requirement may be fulfilled by completing *one* of the following:
 - HON 498 "Thesis Prep Course," a one-credit hour course offered on the downtown campus.
 - One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett.
 - The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.

Additional information about the thesis/creative project (*includes information about thesis prep workshops and classes*) can be found at: <http://barrethonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>

II. Thesis/Creative Project FAQs

1. What constitutes a thesis/creative project in the School of Theatre and Film:

- The thesis/creative project may be conceived as a synthesis of the student's previous work and experiences or an immersion in a particular area of interest.
- The goal of the project is quality, not quantity (e.g., a one-act, not a three-act, production).
- Students may choose to work individually or collaboratively.

2. Examples of Performance/Production Projects

- Directing a play or performing in a major role
- Solo or collaborative work on an original production (e.g., collaborative work: one student writes, another directs, a third designs, and the fourth performs)
- Forum Theatre presentations (e.g., Augusto Boal) on social issues for a participatory audience.
- Performance art
- Dance/movement concert
- Puppetry performance
- Storytelling concert
- Musical theatre/opera (excerpts) concerts, revues
- Directing a short film

3. Examples of Writing Projects

- An original play, teleplay, or screenplay
- Research paper (geared for conference presentation or publication)
- Curriculum design
- Empirical/survey research (e.g., audience preferences/attitudes, market research, evaluation research)
- A manifesto/credo for a new theatre production company
- Director's prompt book
- Stage Manager's book

4. Design/Technology Projects

- Schematics or product incorporating new technology for theatre production practice.
- Sketches, renderings, sample costume construction for a frequently produced play, or an original play by a student
- Groundplans, working drawings, set models for a frequently produced play, or an original play by a student
- With faculty supervision, a realized lighting design for a student production in the Rehearsal Hall, Lyceum, etc.
- Virtual scenery

- Portfolio of design work
- Software for the theatre
- Photo/visual art exhibition
- Video, web site/CD-rom presentation
- Sound presentation

5. Documentation of the Creative Project:

A creative project must be documented by both expository text and appropriate evidence of the work submitted (slides, audio and/or videotape, website, etc.).

The text should describe the process involved in the work's production and, as appropriate, offer an analysis of or commentary on that work. This writing will be evaluated as an integral part of the project; it is required to meet the University's L (Literacy) requirement. Honors students are urged to address the following as part of their written component to the Creative Project:

- An overview of your goals for the project. What challenges did you want to confront? How did you believe this project could help you grow as an artist, a person, a communicator, etc.
- What course and what experiences in your university studies have helped shape the your creative project?
- Sources and methodology of your research. Include a bibliography.
- A description of the process. Discuss the collaborative process if this applies. Self-evaluation. Revisit your goals for the projects and analyze your success with each goal. Did you accomplish what you intended to accomplish? Was the result what you expected it to be? How was it different? Did you accomplish something you did not intend to accomplish? What are your weaknesses? What might you have done differently or more successfully?

6. Why do a Thesis/Creative Project in Theatre/Film?

The thesis/creative project is your opportunity to contribute to and advance knowledge in your discipline in a meaningful way. It is an opportunity to engage with professors committed to working with honors students. Writing a thesis or producing a creative project can be the most rewarding experience of an undergraduate career. The activity provides an opportunity for you to explore areas of academic interest in greater intensity, while earning three to six credit hours of directed research, performance, artistic production, or other original work conceived in conjunction with your thesis director and committee.

Barrett Honors students who work with faculty mentors or thesis directors create multiple advantages for themselves in securing internships, research opportunities, or other opportunities related to the major that often become the source of thesis topics. Barrett students who work closely with faculty through the thesis/creative project process have unique advantages in demonstrating their scholarly and artistic

commitment. ASU Faculty and Barrett alumni are often available to discuss the value of the thesis/creative project not only as good preparation for graduate and professional school, but in securing a meaningful letter of recommendation from a professor who has worked through the process with you, values your commitment and is often willing to place you in contact with colleagues at other prestigious graduate programs nationwide.

Your thesis/creative project may help you get admitted to the graduate school of your choice. Graduate schools frequently require writing or research samples as part of the application process and this criteria is often weighted heavily in evaluating your skills and preparation for succeeding in their program.

The honors creative project may serve as your bridge to the professional world of theatre or film. The completion of a solo performance piece or original film, for example, may provide the opportunity to perform or exhibit in a variety of venues including local theatres or national and international theatre and film festivals.

III. Honors Courses and Honors Enrichment Contracts

1. Honors Film and Theater Courses taught in the SoFDT

- FMP 492 Honors Directed Study
- FMP 493 Honors Thesis
- HON 294 Acting Introduction
- HON 394 Performance Seminar: Myth and Ritual
- THE 492 Honors Directed Study
- THE 493 Honors Thesis
- THP 385/HON 394 Acting: Classical and Poetic Drama

2. Students may enroll in Honors Enrichment Contracts in most Film and Theater courses.

3. Information about Honors Internship Opportunities can be found at <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/>