

The Individual Honors Examination Committee

The Individual Honors Examination Committee members include a Field Examiner and a Faculty Examiner from the Colleges and an Outside Examiner. Each member of this committee evaluates the Candidate's Honors Project and Written Honors Examination, participates in the Oral Honors Examination and votes in the evaluation of the Honors Project. Normally, the Outside Examiner is concerned primarily with the Honors Project and its results. The Field Examiner concentrates on the Honors Field, beginning with the Written Honors Examination. The Faculty Examiner represents the interests and standards of the Colleges. Ideally, in the case of an Honors Project in the fine or performing arts, the examiners attend the public exhibit or performance. The Honors Faculty Adviser chooses these examiners without consulting the Honors Candidate and in accordance with the following provisions:

- **The Outside Examiner** should be an acknowledged specialist in the Candidate's Honors Field and should be chosen with care. The Outside Examiner is not on the faculty of our Colleges and usually (but not necessarily) comes from another college or university (preferably one offering graduate study in the examiner's field). Since retired faculty remain members of the Colleges' community they may not serve as Outside Examiners, although they may, of course, still function as Field or Faculty Examiners. A former faculty member presently employed by another academic institution may indeed be invited as an Outside Examiner unless he or she has been involved directly in some capacity with the Honors Project under consideration. A beneficial aspect of the Honors Program is the opportunity it gives Candidates to have expert appraisal of their work from a fresh perspective. It is also advantageous to the Colleges to have well-qualified outsiders see specimens of our best work.
- **The Field Examiner** is a member of the faculty of our Colleges who teaches (or has taught) courses within the Candidate's Honors Field. Normally, this Examiner is chosen from the department or program of the Candidate's major. The Field Examiner of candidates with an interdisciplinary program or with an individual major is chosen from among instructors of the courses which the Candidate has listed as comprising that major. Any exceptions must be approved by the Honors Program Committee. The Field Examiner helps the Honors Faculty Adviser prepare the Written Honors Examination and chairs the Candidate's Individual Honors Examination Committee during its evaluation of the Honors work following the Oral Honors Examination.
- **The Faculty Examiner** is a member of the faculty of our Colleges who does not teach courses within the Candidate's Honors Field and who is presumed to have no special competence in that field. The reason for avoiding a Faculty Examiner who is already conversant with the Honors Field is the belief that the ability to explain one's specialties to intelligent non-specialists is an indication of mastery of the material. The Faculty Examiner should NOT be a member of the DIVISION that includes the Candidate's major discipline. The divisions recognized for this purpose are Humanities and Creative Arts, Social Sciences, and the Natural Sciences. In the case of a Candidate with an Interdisciplinary Program or with an Individual Major, the Faculty Examiner should come from an academic area as distant as possible from the Honors Project.