Honors Thesis or Honors Project: Before beginning an Honors Thesis or Honors Project (hereafter: Honors Thesis/Project), students should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of their Honor’s Thesis/Project Committee for guidance.

Honors Thesis or Honors Project

- The Honors Thesis demonstrates a student’s ability to carry out independent research on an approved topic and to present original analysis of that research in the form of a substantive formal paper—approximately 8,000-10,000 words (roughly 30-35 pages) in length. The thesis may include fieldwork, library, and/or archival research.

- The Honors Project demonstrates a student’s ability to carry out original field and/or library research and to design and present that work in a substantial project appropriate to the professional practices of ethnomusicology and/or folklore (e.g. museum exhibit, interactive website, short documentary, ethnographic recording, or other form of public presentation). In addition, the project should be accompanied by a written document—of approximately 2,000-2,500 words (8-10 pages)—that describes the project’s objectives, methodology, significance in the context of relevant scholarship and practice, and that includes a conclusions and bibliography. Students should choose a project based upon technical skills already mastered in an independent practicum or field-experience course.

Pre-Requisites: Students who wish to enroll in the Folklore and Ethnomusicology Honors Program must have a 3.5 GPA in Folklore and Ethnomusicology courses and a 3.3 GPA overall. To graduate with honors, students must maintain these GPA minimums, complete two courses related to the Honors Thesis/Project during the Fall and Spring semesters of their senior year, and must present a completed Thesis/Project by the 12th week of their senior year.

Honors Program Timeline

1. Establish an Honors Thesis/Project Committee no later than the 12th week of second semester of the junior year.
   During the spring semester of the junior year, the student should select a Chair based upon compatible research interests and areas of expertise and begin to develop plans for the Honors Thesis/Project. The student and his/her Honors Chair will then select at least one additional faculty member in the department to serve on the committee. A member of the Undergraduate Committee and/or a faculty member from the student’s minor or second major may serve in the capacity of second and third readers as necessary. The student must:
   a. Retrieve the Honors Thesis/Project Committee form from the Graduate Recorder;
   b. After establishing the Committee, request final approval of candidacy from the Director of Undergraduate Studies; and
   c. If the proposed research will involve interaction with people, “human subjects” protocol and ethnographic methods must be approved by the Institutional Review Board over the summer between junior and senior years. This process includes completing the CITI Human Subjects Research Course (http://researchadmin.iu.edu/EO/EO_citi.html);

2. Enroll in FOLK F399 Reading for Honors in the fall semester of the senior year and pass with a B+ or higher in order to continue in the honors program.
3. Submit an Honors Thesis/Project Proposal no later than the end of the first semester of the senior year.
   a. Retrieve the Honors Thesis/Project Proposal form from the Graduate Recorder.
   b. The proposal should be approximately 800-1,500 words (3-5 pages) and should include: 1) a working title; 2) a description of the proposed project’s main topic, methodologies, time for completion, and anticipated contributions of the project; and a preliminary 1-2 page bibliography. The student must give complete copies of this proposal to all committee members and the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the end of the first semester. Following their review of the thesis/project proposal (and potential suggestions for revisions), the members of the Honors Thesis/Project Committee should sign the proposal form, and the student will submit the proposal and form to the Graduate Recorder by the 12th week of the fall semester senior year. A copy will be provided to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
   c. Submit the Indiana University Folklore Archives Donation Form.

4. On the Thesis/Project Chair’s recommendation, enroll in FOLK F499 Honors Thesis in the second semester of the senior year.

5. Submit the Honors Thesis/Project to committee members no later than the 12th week of the spring semester of the senior year.
   a. After the draft of the thesis/project is submitted, the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology requires an oral defense. The defense is administered by the Honors Committee, and it usually consists of a 10-15 minute presentation by the student followed by a 30-45-minute Q&A and discussion period led by the committee (unless determined otherwise prior to the defense). The defense provides an opportunity for the student and research committee members to discuss the thesis/project and suggestions for revisions. All committee members must be present for the defense; therefore scheduling must be done well in advance to accommodate all professors and the student.
   b. Following the oral defense, the committee will recommend minor or major revisions and can judge the completion of the thesis project as very successful (High Pass), successful (Pass), moderately successful (Low Pass), or unsuccessful (Fail).
   c. The committee, in collaboration with the student, will establish an outline of required revisions and when they must be completed. In some cases, a grade of incomplete will be submitted until the Chair has approved the revisions.
   d. The Committee Chair will sign the Honor’s Thesis Approval Form when all revisions are satisfactorily met.
   e. The Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Graduate Recorder will sign the Honor’s Thesis Approval Form when the completed Thesis is submitted.

6. Approval of the Honors Thesis: Due by conclusion of the second semester of the senior year. Following the oral defense and the student’s satisfactory completion of all revisions as assessed by the Committee Chair and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Honors Thesis may be approved. The Committee Chair will submit a letter grade FOLK F499 (Honors Thesis) that reflects the recommendation of the committee members:
   - High Pass = A+ to A
   - Pass = A- to B+
   - Low Pass = B to B
   - Fail = C+ and student will not graduate with honors.