

## ***Honors Program – Senior Thesis Preparation (1-3 units)***

### **How to Sign up for an Honors Independent Study in your Major**

#### **1. FINDING AN ADVISOR:**

Talk to one (or possibly more than one) faculty member in your major department about your ideas for your Honors Senior Thesis. The faculty member may be your major advisor and/or a faculty member who specializes in a topic you find interesting.

Ask if the professor can be your advisor for an Honors Independent Study in your major. Explain to your professor that an Honors Independent Study is no different than any other independent study project for your major. The only difference is that this 1-3 unit course will also serve as your Honors senior thesis preparation.

#### **2. THE NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED:**

Honors Program students will be required to take a minimum of 1 unit of Honors Independent Study in their major to graduate with an Honors Diploma. You and your advisor will discuss the number of units you will take and the expectations he/she has for 1-3 units worth of research. Only 1 unit is required for Honors, but you may take up to 3 units. Please note that most departments also count independent studies toward major graduation requirements.

#### **3. REGISTERING FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY:**

Fill out an Independent Study Form with your advisor. These forms can be obtained in on USD Registrar's website. A sample form can be found on the back of this page. You must fill out the form and bring it to your Dean's office for final approval. Note: The Honors Program Director signs these forms in addition to your Department Chair. If you are wishing to add the independent study for Honors credit, you will need to use an add/drop form to indicating 499H and get the signature of the Honors Program Director.

#### **4. WHEN TO REGISTER FOR AN INDEPENDENT STUDY:**

Ideally, you register for a Fall semester independent study during open registration in the Spring of your Junior year. Honors students who would like to prepare for their thesis, with an independent study, before Fall semester senior year may do so.

#### **5. WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT STUDY?**

An independent study is an advanced individual project developed by the student in coordination with a faculty member. These "studies" have included, but are not limited to the following activities: original on or off campus research, data collection, literature reviews, writing a rough draft of a thesis, compilation of an art portfolio, design of a lesson plan, or original writing.