Criteria For Honors Thesis—Creative

Creative theses typically have two parts: the documented creative work (performance, visual art, film, screenplay, costume catalogue, etc.) and an accompanying paper discussing the process and significance of the creative work.

No Honors

- A thesis does not get submitted
- A thesis is submitted, but:
  - Does not document the creative product adequately
  - Has an uninformative accompanying paper
  - Does not reflect research or creative work on the part of the student
  - Contains no, little, or poor discussion the relevant discussions in the field(s) or background material to situate the project
  - Is badly written (many typographical and grammatical errors, little evidence of proofreading or revision)

Honors Thesis

- Has a creative work that is original, and is well-conceived and executed
- Shows technical mastery of the creative form/practice that is used
- Has a written component that
  - Discusses the purpose and significance of the project
    - What is at stake? So what?
  - Locates the creative work in a broader context the discipline(s) and field(s) in which project is located
  - Exhibits grounding in the dialogues about the topic(s) and process that the creative project entails
  - Shows critical understanding of the subject matter involved in the conception and production of the creative work
- Has been proofread and revised for appropriate format, grammatical errors, appropriate format for the field
  - As appropriate, contains well-labeled and attributed tables and figures as supplementary material
  - Has a complete Works Cited or Bibliography included in the proper format
  - Please review the required Honors thesis format information on the Honors website
- Is of uniformly high quality throughout

High Honors Thesis

- Has all the elements of an Honors level thesis
- And demonstrates one or more of the following criteria at a level higher than an Honors Thesis:
  - Makes a significant contribution to the field or community and/or
  - Demonstrates originality and high production value and/or
  - Uses innovative methods and techniques and/or
• Advances the critical theoretical conversation about the arts

**Highest Honors Thesis**

• Has all the elements of an Honors/High Honors thesis, and in addition, achieves one or more of the following:
  o Makes a unique and significant contribution to the field or to the community
  o Demonstrates originality and high production value
  o Demonstrates technical mastery and innovation
  o Advances the critical theoretical conversation about the arts

• In addition, the student should have demonstrated a high level of independence and initiative for the project, as determined by their evaluator

• Approaches Master’s degree-level work in terms of significance, scope, contribution, execution and/or analysis