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.

Honors Thesis:
- Submission of a documented creative work that is original, well conceived and well executed (recording, script, composition, etc.)
- Shows technical mastery of the creative form/practice that is used
- Has a written component (typically 10-12 pages)
  - Discusses the purpose and significance of the project
    - What’s at stake? So what?
  - Locates the creative work in a broader context of the relevant discipline(s), field(s), and/or artistic genre(s) in which project is located
  - Exhibits grounding in the background and dialogues about the project’s subject matter
  - Shows a critical understanding of the process that the creative project entails
- 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 for the written portion of the creative Honors Thesis (on the Honors website)
- Is of uniformly high quality throughout and clearly represents work above what is expected of a typical undergraduate in the major.

Creative Thesis Award for Outstanding Work: a student’s evaluating committee (advisor and committee member(s)) may recommend an exceptional thesis for submission to the Honors Council, which will determine awards for the most outstanding theses in each semester cycle. These theses should represent excellent work that stands out even among other Honors work.

- Must have all the elements of an Honors level thesis
- And demonstrates at least one of the following criteria at a level higher than an Honors Thesis and approaching master’s level work
  - Makes a significant contribution to the field or community and/or
  - Demonstrates originality and high production value and/or
  - Uses innovative methods and techniques
  - 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 level work in terms of significance, scope, contribution, execution or analysis.

No Honors
• A thesis does not get submitted
• A thesis is submitted, but:
  o Does not reflect creative work on the part of the student that represents work above and beyond what is expected for a non-Honors student
  o Is poorly executed
  o Does not document the creative product adequately
  o Has an uninformative accompanying paper that is poorly conceived and written, and contains no, little, or poor discussion the relevant discussions in the field(s) or background material to situate the project
  o Is badly written (many typographical and grammatical errors, little evidence of proofreading or revision)