**College of Fine Arts Departmental Honors Guidelines**

Students undertaking Departmental Honors projects in the College of Fine Arts may pursue theses, creative projects, or hybrid projects that combine elements of each. This document contains general guidelines for CFA students and faculty supervisors—please note that individual units may have more specific guidelines.

Note: Projects involving human subjects may require approval from the DRB and/or IRB. Please discuss this with your project supervisor, and see <https://research.tcu.edu/research-compliance/irb/> for more information.

**Theses**

Departmental Honors Theses in the College of Fine Arts:

* Consist of original research that contributes new ideas to the student’s field of study
* Demonstrate advanced research skills in the student’s field (incl. bibliography, relevant appendices, and additional research apparatus as required)
* Clearly articulate all relevant research methodologies
* Result in a written project of generally not fewer than 5000 words (approx. 20 pages), not including the relevant scholarly apparatus (title page, bibliography, appendices, etc.)
* Include a public presentation of research at the unit, college, and/or university level

**Creative Projects**

Departmental Honors Creative Projects in the College of Fine Arts:

* Result in significant original creative output that includes public performance or exhibition
* Demonstrate significant research and/or research-based reflection, including relevant historical/cultural background
* Include a significant written component of generally not fewer than 2500 words (approx. 10 pages), which may include research, self-reflection, literature review, or other appropriate materials at the supervisor’s discretion
* Result in an artifact suitable for archival preservation in addition to the written component (e.g., video, audio, images, programs, etc.)
* Include a public presentation of the research and creative process at the unit, college, and/or university level

**Hybrid Projects**

Departmental Honors Hybrid Projects in the College of Fine Arts:

* Combine elements of theses and creative projects
* Contain both a written component and a creative artifact
* Demonstrate significant research and/or research-based reflection, including relevant historical/cultural background
* May explore alternative formats for the presentation of research, including digital art/humanities projects, lecture-performances, and so on.
* Include a public presentation of research and creative process at the unit, college, and/or university level