

# HNRS 499: Honors Independent Study

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is HNRS 499: Honors Independent Study?**

The Ramapo College Honors Program will no longer be offering the course HNRS 420: Honors Senior Seminar. In its place, we are requiring all graduating students to complete a 2-credit or 4-credit independent study to work in conjunction with the Honors Senior Project.

### **Why is HNRS 499 replacing HNRS 420?**

One of the primary roadblocks for many students seeking to graduate with Honors was difficulty with fitting the Honors Senior Seminar into their schedule because it was a 4-credit course and took up an elective space. In order to circumvent this issue, we have made it easier to include the final Honors course requirement into your schedule while including more structure and allowing for greater freedom and flexibility over the specifics of the course.

### **What is an Independent Study?**

An independent study is a course in which you are the only student. You and the faculty sponsor must develop a syllabus with deadlines, grading system, meeting times, assigned readings and writing assignments, etc. That syllabus must meet with the approval of your school Dean and the Director of the Honors Program. This requires planning and preparation well in advance of the end of add/drop at the very start of the semester. You and your instructor should review the requirements and deadlines for the Senior Project as you develop the syllabus and make your Faculty Reader aware of your plan.

### **How does the Honors Independent Study work with my Senior Project?**

The Honors I.S. is not an additional project or course on top of your Senior Project. Instead, think of it as a more specific framework with which to complete your project. Honors students must still meet all of the requirements of the original Senior Project process. However, the Honors Independent Study makes the project an official graded part of your course schedule and transcript.

### **How will the Honors Independent Study fit into my schedule?**

You have a great deal of flexibility with how you add HNRS 499 to your schedule. You can:

- Add HNRS 499 as a 2-credit course on top of your schedule at any point during your junior or senior year. This would allow you to take 18 credits total (Four 4-credit courses plus the 2-credit I.S.) without exceeding the cap.
- Take 3 classes worth a total of 12 credits and add HNRS 499 to reach 16 credits total.

### **What is the difference between a 2-credit and 4-credit independent study?**

There is no difference between a 2-credit and 4-credit I.S. as far as the amount of research hours involved or the total scope of the project. You will make the decision to choose 2 credits or 4 credits based on which option best fits your schedule.

### How is the Independent Study graded?

Along with your Honors Sponsor, you will choose if you would like your I.S. to be on a letter-grade scale or pass/fail.

### Is the professor who coordinates my independent study the same as my Senior Project Sponsor?

Yes.

### Do I still need a Senior Project reader?

Yes.

### Can studying abroad for 4-weeks or more still be substituted for Honors 420 or Honors 499?

If you are a current sophomore, junior, or senior, studying abroad through Ramapo College for 4 weeks or more can still substitute for Honors 420 or the Honors Independent Study. Students entering the Honors Program during or after the 2019 cohort cannot substitute studying abroad for Honors 499.

### What forms do I need to fill out to complete an Honors Independent Study?

Form	Due Date	Recipient
Senior Project Idea Form	October 30 <sup>th</sup> of Junior Year	Honors Program
Senior Project Proposal Form	May 1 <sup>st</sup> of Junior Year	Honors Program
Honors Independent Study Contract	Prior to Add/Drop Date of Semester you intend to enroll in Honors 499	Honors Program
Ramapo College Independent Study Contract	Prior to Add/Drop Date of Semester you intend to enroll in Honors 499	The Dean of your School
Independent Study Registration Form	Prior to Add/Drop Date of Semester you intend to enroll in Honors 499	The Registrar's Office
Senior Project Completion Form	March of your Senior Year	Honors Program

### Where can I find the above documents?

All of the above documents with the exception of the Independent Study Registration Form can be found on the Honors Documents page at <https://www.ramapo.edu/honors/studentres/documents/>

The Independent Study Registration Form can be found at the Registrar's office.