



About the Honors Entrepreneurship Independent Studies

For Students

Benefits

- Earn up to 3 honors credits per semester
- Gain practical skills to help you start your own business
- Network with business leaders who want to help you succeed
- Win \$50,000 to start your own business

How To Sign Up!

1. Secure a faculty sponsor (we can help if you're having trouble). Be sure your sponsor reads the second page of this packet.
2. Choose which course you want to sign up for (please note the pre-requisite requirements can be waved at your faculty sponsors' discretion, we can help you figure out if that is appropriate).
3. Fill out the attached Honors Independent Study Contact and send it in before ad-drop ends. You'll notice the document requests a "proposal." Below you'll find pre-written proposals you can use.
4. Attend our events.
5. Enter into our competitions (where you could win \$\$).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: By participating do I give up ownership of my idea?

A: No! Your ideas are yours alone.

Q: If I can't find a faculty sponsor, what do I do?

A: Ask us for help, we can probably introduce you to someone: contactus@umassei.com

For Faculty Sponsors

Benefits

As you probably already know, the student who handed this document to you is passionate about his or her idea. You've no doubt helped them with the academics and probably other aspects as well – but you know they need to cut their teeth on some real-world situations to fully explore their ideas.

Our program will help them explore the entrepreneurial career path so they can determine if it is right for them.

The investment of your time is fairly light, while the potential benefit to your student can be life changing.

What is Involved

You serve as the academic sponsor and mentor for the student, as is typical of most independent studies. But unlike most such classes, ours provides you and your student access to a network of veteran executives who can handle the "business" side of the class. Our mentors will provide detailed, written feedback to both you and the student to use as you see fit.

Entrepreneurship Honors Independent Study Sequence

Honors 196E, 296E, 396E

Entrepreneurship Phase I, II & III

Students seeking academic credit for their participation in the Entrepreneurship Initiative (EI) competitions and programs may enroll in a progressive sequence of Honors Independent Studies (HIS): Honors 196E, Honors 296E and/or Honors 396E. Please use the Honors Independent Study Contract form included in this packet and attach the syllabus for the appropriate Phase being registered for (use the appropriate syllabi found in the following pages).

Students must secure a faculty sponsor; this process can be facilitated by consulting with UMass Entrepreneurship Initiative Director Prof. Hyers (hyers@ecs.umass.edu). All prerequisites must be completed before progressing to the next Entrepreneurship HIS in the sequence.

Note: Please be aware that Commonwealth College students are limited to a maximum of three (3) HIS courses to fulfill their Honors Graduation Requirements. The 3-course Entrepreneurship HIS sequence equates to two (2) HIS's.

For Honors 196E and 296E to count toward Honors Graduation Requirements, a student must complete BOTH Honors 196E AND Honors 296E, for a total of 3 credits, with a grade of "B" or better in both. Together, Honors 196E and 296E equate to ONE (1) honors course.

Completion of the 3-credit HIS, Honors 396E, with a grade of "B" or better fulfills ONE honors (1) course in a student's Honors Graduation Requirements.

Capstone Experiences: Honors students wishing to create a capstone experience around UMass Entrepreneurship Initiative activities should contact Initiative Director Prof. Hyers (hyers@ecs.umass.edu). A variation of this course is also available as (dept) 499Y and T, which satisfies the capstone requirement of Commonwealth College when both semesters are completed.

Proposal for Honors 196E (1 credit)

Requirements

- Attendance of 90% of EI seminars/workshops/competitions.
- Draft version of a < 250 word "elevator pitch" (conforming to the rules of the Grinspoon Concept Pitch Competition detailed at: http://EI.org/Competitions/2006.10.19_Pitch.html)
- Final version of the elevator pitch
- Entry into the Grinspoon Concept Pitch Competition – OR – submission to EI's Mentor Panel.
- Draft version of a 2-page executive summary detailing the student's original business idea (conforming to the rules of the Grinspoon Executive Summary Competition detailed at: http://EI.org/Competitions/2006.11.30_es.html).
- Final version of the executive summary.
- Entry into the Grinspoon Executive Summary Competition– OR – submission to EI's Mentor Panel.

Note: Students will be required to provide substantive data to support their document's claims RE market, product, business model, etc.

Calendar

Week 2	Orientation
Week 3	Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary Workshop Draft version of Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary due
Week 4	Final version of Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary due Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary Competition
Week 5	Mini Plan Workshop
Week 6	Draft Mini Plan due (not applicable to this course) First set of "tangibles" due (not applicable to this course)
Week 8	Final Mini Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 9	Nuts and Bolts Workshop Bullet-point draft of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 10	Draft of section I of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 11	Networking Workshop I Draft of section II of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 12	Draft of section III of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 13	Networking Workshop II Final set of "tangibles" due (not applicable to this course) Final Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 15	Business Plan Competition Finals

Proposal for Honors 296E (2 credits)

Requirements

- Honors 196E with a grade of “B” or better is a prerequisite. This is waveable if the student takes on all the requirements of Honors 196E *and* has approval from their faculty advisor.
- Draft version of a 5-page "mini plan" (conforming to the structural rules of the Technology Innovation Challenge. Their full rules are not yet online but will be in the next few weeks.)
- Final version of the mini plan.
- Submission of mini plan to EI's Mentor Panel.
- "Something tangible" – Student must make some measurable, tangible progress moving from an idea/plan into a business. Student must work with EI & their faculty advisor to determine what actions need to be accomplished by the end of the semester and how they will be reported/measured. Sample "tangible" actions: recruit a board of advisors, design-execute-analyze potential customer surveys, or build a crude prototype.

Tangibles

Please detail the "tangibles" you, your faculty sponsor, and EI have agreed to here.

Calendar

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Week 4	Final version of Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary due Elevator Pitch & Executive Summary Competition
Week 5	Mini Plan Workshop
Week 6	Draft Mini Plan due First set of "tangibles" due
Week 8	Final Mini Plan due
Week 9	Nuts and Bolts Workshop Bullet-point draft of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 10	Draft of section I of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 11	Networking Workshop I Draft of section II of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 12	Draft of section III of Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 13	Networking Workshop II Final set of "tangibles" due (not applicable to this course) Final Business Plan due (not applicable to this course)
Week 15	Business Plan Competition Finals

504 Good
140 Hicks
telephone
email: col

Plan early: pre-registration is preferred; registration early in Add/Drop is possible. Do not wait until the last minute—late adds are not guaranteed and may create low-credit enrollment problems with your financial aid, insurance or housing.

Amherst
col.umass.edu

Dept	Course #	This Section is for Commonwealth College use only.

Added via:

<input type="checkbox"/> online (student course sched attached)	Initials	/	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Change Request form (copy attached)	_____	/	_____
Entered on CSD database: <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	/	_____
Copies sent to: <input type="checkbox"/> Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Dept	_____	/	_____

Honors Independent Study Contract

Deadline is end of Add/Drop period
THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF HISs THAT MAY MEET HONORS COURSE REQUIREMENTS. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK.

Last Name, First _____ Grad Month/Year _____ SPIRE ID _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Primary _____ Secondary Major _____

I am a member of the Honors Independent Study Program at Commonwealth College: Yes No

If yes, I am also pursuing Departmental Honors in my: Primary Major Secondary Major and/or Interdisciplinary Honors

H.I.S Dept.= department sponsoring the honors independent study

Commonwealth College tracks are described at <http://www.comcol.umass.edu/currentstudents/requirements/interdisciplinaryhonors.asp>

REGISTRATION INFO		
The Dept your research falls under:	Credit(s) you request for this HIS:	Semester & Year of H.I.S:
If applicable, indicate the course your HIS is affiliated with (e.g., Biol 100)		Semester & Year of that course:
Sponsor Name (please print):	Sponsor's Faculty ID #:	
Dept Address:	Phone:	
Email Address:		

Sponsor can locate this number on his/her UMass pay stub. The number is required for SPIRE course registration processing.

PROPOSAL: See HIS instructions. Attach a 1-2 page proposal that answers the following questions in prose format.

What do you wish to study? How will you conduct your research? How will you present your H.I.S. for grading?

I will conduct _____ hours of independent study per week (*the expectation is 3 or more hours per week per 1 credit*).

I will meet with my sponsor _____ hour(s) per week for progress reports and guidance (*the expectation is 1/2 hr per week for a total of 8 hrs over the semester*).

I have written the proposal following the Commonwealth College HIS proposal guidelines & have reviewed it with my sponsor.

My research involves lab work, animal testing or human subject testing. I have reviewed the University's research compliance regulations at <http://www.umass.edu/research/comply/index.html> and received the appropriate approval/certification for my research.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE ↓	
Student's Signature	Date
FACULTY SPONSOR'S APPROVAL ↓	
Sponsor's Name (please print)	Sponsor's Signature
	Date
DEPARTMENTAL HONORS COORDINATOR (DHC) APPROVAL ↓	
DHC Name (please print)	
REGISTRATION AUTHORIZATION (FOR CCH, CCDH, CCIH) ↓	
ComCol Advisor Signature	

Signifies the student's request to have the course added.

Signifies the sponsor's willingness to guide the student's study and his/her approval of the proposal.

Signifies approval of the H.I.S. sponsor and proposal for the purpose of satisfying departmental honors requirements.

Student must make an appointment with a Commonwealth College advisor to have this form reviewed for approval. The Advisor's signature signifies approval of H.I.S. for registration. H.I.S. may not satisfy a Commonwealth College requirement without this signature.

Honors Independent Study Contract

A Commonwealth College Honors Independent Study (HIS) differs from a departmental independent study in two primary ways:

1. Emphasis on development of a mentoring relationship between the faculty sponsor and the student through frequent contact (at least one-half hour per week per credit requested or one hour every other week).
2. Integration of a theoretical component beyond applied experience.

CONTRACT INSTRUCTIONS

This form is the official UMASS course description of the work you did. Answer the questions as thoroughly as possible. Grad schools, employers, etc., inquiring about your H.I.S. work may be sent a copy of this form.

The information at the top of the form (credit request, affiliated course, etc.) is necessary in order to register you for your Honors Independent Study.

Commonwealth College students may use a maximum of three HISs, CSLHISs, (or any combination of these) to satisfy Commonwealth College requirements.

Your proposal should address the following questions:

1. *What do you wish to study?*

- Clearly define your topic and the nature of your study.
- Do you wish to investigate the "big picture" (e.g., The Effects of Excessive TV Viewing on the General Public) or a specific aspect of something (e.g., The Contributions of TV to Weight Gain in Children Ages 4-10, or, Violence on TV and the Rising Crime Rate Among Teenage Males)?
- What do you hope to discover/accomplish from your study (e.g., whether TV rules our daily lives, whether its pros outweigh its cons, whether it contributes to poor physical health or social problems, etc.)?

2. *How will you conduct your research?*

Surveys, observations, lab experiments, library searches, readings, and consultations are examples of research methods.

3. *How will you present your H.I.S for grading?*

- A written document (formal paper with a bibliography, journal, composition) is the standard method for wrapping up an HIS.
- Occasionally an oral presentation of your findings to either a committee or class may be scheduled as well.
- Other options might include a collection of original poetry, an exhibit of original artwork, a performance or contribution of a product to a community.

Registration Deadlines

- Preferred: during the **pre-registration** period for the semester in which the work will be undertaken
- Optional: by the end of the add/drop period for the semester in which the work will be undertaken

Note: registration requests after these dates may result in the need to pay Continuing Education fees for January or summer enrollment.

Students are encouraged to use imagination when designing an Honors Independent Study. It should be challenging, rewarding, stimulating and fun. If you have questions regarding H.I.S., please contact an advisor in the Commonwealth College office, 504 Goodell, (413) 545-2483

504 Goodell Building, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 140 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9272
 telephone: (413) 545-2483 fax: (413) 545-4469
 email: comcol@comcol.umass.edu web: comcol.umass.edu

Dept	Course #	Sched #
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Added via: Initials / Date
 online (student course sched attached) _____ / _____
 Course Change Request form (copy attached) _____ / _____
 Entered on CSD database: _____ / _____
 Copies sent to: Chair Dept _____ / _____

Honors Independent Study Contract

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 THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF HISs THAT MAY MEET HONORS COURSE REQUIREMENTS. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK.

Last Name, First _____ Grad Month/Year _____ SPIRE ID _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Primary Major _____ Secondary Major _____

I am a member of Commonwealth College: Yes No

If yes, I am also pursuing: *Departmental Honors* in my: Primary Major Secondary Major and/or *Interdisciplinary Honors*

REGISTRATION INFO		
The Dept your research falls under:	Credit(s) you request for this HIS:	Semester & Year of H.I.S.:
If applicable, indicate the course your HIS is affiliated with (e.g., Biol 100)		Semester & Year of that course:
Sponsor Name (please print):		Sponsor's Faculty ID #:
Dept Address:		Phone:
Email Address:		

PROPOSAL: See HIS instructions. Attach a 1-2 page proposal that answers the following questions in prose format.

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My research involves lab work, animal testing or human subject testing. I have reviewed the University's research compliance regulations at <http://www.umass.edu/research/comply/index.html> and received the appropriate approval/certification for my research.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE ↓

Student's Signature	Date	
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FACULTY SPONSOR'S APPROVAL ↓

Sponsor's Name (please print)	Sponsor's Signature	Date
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DEPARTMENTAL HONORS COORDINATOR (DHC) APPROVAL if HIS will be used to meet CCDH requirements ↓

DHC Name (please print)	DHC Signature	Date
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REGISTRATION AUTHORIZATION (FOR CCH, CCDH, CCIH) ↓

ComCol Advisor Signature	ComCol Advisor Name (please print)	Date
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