

BA, International Honours Planning Guide



We have developed this guide and planning tool to assist students in planning their path through the BA Int Hons degree. It is a good idea to review this guide and plan prior to each advising meeting. For a complete list of regulations and policies, consult the W&M Catalog and St Andrews policy documents. While this guide summarizes the key points of the degree, students are expected to also consult and become familiar with all degree requirements and policies in the W&M catalog and St Andrews Policy documents. Links to these documents are found in the Resources section.

Resources

[DegreeWorks](#) – This site allows you to track your progress through your major and degree. Note that your advisor is also listed here. Requirements that have been met will have a green checkmark. Those in progress are marked blue. Contact your advisor if you have questions about what is marked or not marked as completed.

[W&M JDP website](#) – “For Current Students” section has more detailed information about the curriculum and contact information for your advisor. Also contains information on resources available to JDP students while at W&M.

[St Andrews BA Int Hons website](#) – information about advising and resources available to BA Int Hons students while at St Andrews.

[W&M Catalog](#) and [St Andrews policy document](#) – explains all policies and regulations for the BA Int Hons degree including continuance standards, leave, and grading.

Sub-honours Years

During sub-honours years, students should focus on passing all major-required classes/modules, passing a COLL 150 (the Lower Division Writing Requirement) at W&M, and meeting (nearly) all proficiencies and breadth requirements. Note that proficiencies and breadth requirements can be met with pre-matriculation credit (AP, IB, etc). Items met with pre-matriculation credit will show as completed in DegreeWorks but note that no credit will be awarded. A single class (either pre-or post-matriculation) can meet up to two breadth requirements and/or proficiencies. For example, a COLL 150 in BIOL can meet the World of Nature breadth requirement AND satisfy the Lower Division Writing Requirement).

In the spirit of the liberal arts, students are encouraged to take classes that interest them outside of their major. These classes may also enable exploration of possible minors. Completing the introductory courses for a minor during sub-honours is often required in order to meet minor requirements. Consult the W&M catalog for a list of minors and their requirements. Note that completing a minor is difficult and requires advance planning.

In late January of the second year, students will decide where to spend the third year of the degree. To make this decision, we recommend that students consider what kind of research experience they wish to pursue during their fourth year: St Andrews dissertation or project, W&M Honors Thesis, or W&M independent study or capstone coursework (see details in the major guidelines section). Students are encouraged to speak with their major advisor, peer advisors and 3rd and 4th year students in the Programme to learn more. This is particularly important if a student wishes to complete a W&M Honors Thesis: each major has different processes, so early conversations are necessary to facilitate finding the right thesis advisor and meeting requirements in a timely manner.

Honours Years

During honours years, students should focus on

- 1) passing all major-required courses/modules;
- 2) ensuring that all proficiencies and breadth requirements will be met prior to graduation;
- 3) passing sufficient 300(0) and 400(0) classes/modules; and
- 4) completing the research requirement/capstone.

Nearly all courses/modules taken during honours should be at the 300(0) or 400(0) level. When taking a normal load of 60 credits during honours years, no more than 7.5 credits can be at 100 and 200 level. Students who are completing minors should be especially careful of the credit count requirements. Consult the BA International honours checklist or the W&M catalog for the list of the credit requirements during honours years.

Students may participate in graduation ceremonies at both institutions. In addition, students will need to apply to graduate at both institutions, regardless of whether they will attend both ceremonies or attend only one. W&M Latin Honors will be determined based upon the student's GPA calculated across *all four years*. St Andrews Degree Classification will be determined based upon the GPA of all 300(0) and 400(0) level courses taken *during honours years*. See the St Andrews policy documents for a description of how Degree Classifications are calculated.

Guidelines for the English Major

COLL 150

Your COLL 150 *does not need* to be in English. In fact, it can be advantageous to choose a COLL 150 that also meets a breadth requirement.

Sub-Honours (lower-level) English courses

Other than the required lower-level English courses at W&M and St Andrews, you do not need to take any other English courses during your first and second years. Concentrate on taking courses outside of English to fulfill your proficiencies and breadth requirements, and to broaden your horizons.

At W&M, you may take CRWR 212 (Introduction to Creative Writing) or an extra 200-level English course such as ENGL 205 (Introduction to Shakespeare). At St Andrews, you may take additional English courses such as CO 1001 (Adultery in the 19th-century Novel) or CO 2002 (Journeys).

However, though these extra English courses will count towards the total credits needed for graduation, they will not count towards the 61 total English credits that you need for the BA (Int Hons) English degree.

Avoid taking upper-level English courses during the sub-Honours years as they will not count towards the 45 upper-level English credits needed for the BA (Int Hons) English degree.

Honours (upper-level) English courses

The upper-level requirements do not have to be taken in any particular order.

A single course can be used to satisfy no more than two of the upper-level requirements for the major: for example, ENGL 417B satisfies both the American Literature requirement and the Constructions of Race requirement.

Certain 300-level W&M courses count as 400(0)-level for the purposes of the degree: ask your advisor. At W&M, any of the 300-level and 400-level courses can be taken in year 3 or year 4.

Upper-level creative writing courses (CRWR at W&M) can count towards English major electives.

Not all upper-level courses in the catalog are offered every year.

Fourth Year Research Requirement

At St Andrews

All English majors spending Year 4 at St Andrews must do a dissertation: EN 4399, either in fall or spring.

At W&M

English majors spending Year 4 at W&M can take ENGL 475 (Research Seminar—4 credits) (different topics are offered in fall and spring, varying from year to year) *or* apply to do an Honors Thesis (ENGL 495 and 496, 6 credits total plus the 1-credit Honors proposal workshop ENGL 494). Either option satisfies the Fourth Year Research Requirement.

The English Honors Thesis program (not to be confused with honours!) at W&M is selective. Application deadlines start in fall of year 3. The English Department [website](#) has plenty of information about Honors (under Undergraduate Program), which applies to regular and BA (Int Hons)/JDP students alike. Admitted students take the 1-credit Honors proposal workshop in late fall of year 3 – online for those spending year 3 at St Andrews. The W&M English Department's Director of Honors helps match students with potential advisors.

BA (Int Hons) English majors can apply instead to do an Honors thesis in Creative Writing, if they have taken 9 credits of CRWR courses. The application process for Creative Writing Honors is somewhat different: consult the Director of Creative Writing during fall of year 3. Again, the Honors program is selective; admission to the Honors program to complete an Honors Thesis is not guaranteed.