

## Swords Scholars Program

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, grant money has been made available to Elmhurst College Honors Program students for support of the junior year independent research projects. A limited number of competitive grants, in the amount of \$300-\$500, will be awarded each year to juniors, who meet the outlined grant criteria.

The grant recipients will be designated “Swords Scholars.” The students are named as such in recognition of the pioneering work of Dr. Robert Swords who began the Elmhurst College Honors Program in 1965. Dr. Swords envisioned a program providing challenging opportunities for intellectual growth. The junior independent research project is just such an opportunity.

## Criteria for Swords Scholars Grants

1. Students must submit an extensive formal proposal to apply for the grant funds.
2. Students may solicit these funds for the completion of their junior (or senior) year independent research project.
3. Students must obtain the support of a faculty member to act as faculty sponsor of the project, complete the “Applications for Honors Course” form (available from Registration and Records), and obtain final approval from the Honors Program Director.
4. Grant projects may vary from library-based to empirical – laboratory or field-based, etc. However, all research projects will result in some type of written text; length will vary by discipline. A copy of the written text will remain on file with the Honors Program Director.
5. Projects must be presented in some public forum; i.e. presented at the EC Research Showcase, presented at the Regional or National Regional Honors Council Conferences and/or submitted for publication in the student journal, *Investigations*. Students may be encouraged to submit their work elsewhere, as appropriate.

## Swords Scholar Grant Proposal

*“He [or she] who has hit upon a subject suited to his [her] powers will never fail.”*  
-- Quintus Horatius Flaccus, 8 B.C. [brackets, M.K. Mulvaney]

The following grant proposal must be submitted to compete for grant funding for support of the Elmhurst College Honors Program junior independent research project. Grant funds may be used for project supplies, such as specialized software purchases, laboratory equipment, or transcription equipment, etc.; for travel expenses for field observations and experiences; for attendance at appropriate seminars or conferences contributing to your research focus; for professional stipends for “unusual” expense of student time in completing the project, and so forth. Funds are not limited to the above, but rather may also be assigned to additional “worthy” expenses, at the discretion of the Honors Program Director and Honors Committee. Grants, ranging from \$300-\$500 per project, are awarded on a competitive basis.

**(Applicants: Keep in mind that a proposal is a “persuasive document.” Convince your readers that this is a significant research endeavor, worthy of grant funds and “Swords Scholar” designation. *Good luck!*)**

### Proposal Components

The proposal must include the following components:

1. Cover letter
  - Introduce yourself and your project (briefly). This introduction should explain your participation in the Honors Program to date, indicate your reason(s) for selecting this particular project, and identify your faculty sponsor, indicating his/her expertise.
2. Title page
  - State the title of the project, student and faculty sponsor names, and date of submission.
3. Table of Contents
  - Designate all components with appropriate page references.

4. Proposal Abstract
  - Create a succinct, summary statement (approximately 150 words) identifying the project, its major objectives, and anticipated results. (HINT: Write this last – after you’ve worked out the details below.)
5. Statement of the Research Project/Problem
  - Introduction – indicate appropriate background information, providing a context for the focus of this project.
  - Body – indicate the focus of the project, objectives in pursuing this project, methodology, anticipated resources, anticipated results, etc. (Note: This is the most extensive part of the proposal (probably 2-3 pages) where you “make your case” for deserving these grant funds.)
6. Timetable
  - Create a timeline indicating specific anticipated dates for completion of the various stages of the project, i.e. gathering data, transcribing notes, analyzing research, preparing the written document, presenting results, and so forth.
7. Project Participants
  - List all participants involved in the project.
8. Budget
  - Itemize all anticipated expenses for completion of the project.
9. Dissemination of Information
  - Explain venue(s) for public dissemination of research results, i.e. presenting at the EC Research Showcase; presenting at a regional or national Honors Council Conference or other conference site as appropriate, publishing results in *Investigations* or elsewhere.