PPE Independent Study & Honors Thesis

Request Form

*This page is the request form. Email to* [*ppemajor@sas.upenn.edu*](mailto:ppemajor@sas.upenn.edu) *when complete. The next page recommends questions to address with your research supervisor.*

**Student name:**

**PPE theme:**

**Research question:**

**Relation to theme:**

**Professor overseeing project and the Professor’s email:**

**Connections to Professor’s work:**

**Term (e.g. Fall, Spring, Summer Session 2):**

**Signatures**

Student Name Date

Supervisor’s Name Date

Note: After securing your supervisor’s approval, emailing this form to [ppemajor@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:ppemajor@sas.upenn.edu) cc’ing your supervisor will be taken as supervisor’s consent so long as no objections are raised to the email.

**Guiding Questions for Proposing a Project and Setting Expectations with Your Research Supervisor**

**Brainstorming**

What is your overarching research question? Are there sub-questions you need to answer to address the overarching question?

What literature will you be engaging with? Provide specific books or articles.

What research methods will you be using, and why are they appropriate to the literature or question?

Why are you approaching this professor? Why are they a good fit for your project?

Also use CURF’s helpful resources:

* Tips for Contacting Faculty: <https://www.curf.upenn.edu/research/find-mentor/contacting-faculty>
* Ways of Identifying Faculty Mentors: <https://www.curf.upenn.edu/research/find-mentor/more-methods>

**Practical Considerations**

What is your proposed timeline: include specific task deadlines and proposed meeting schedule?

e.g. Define question, identify sources, read sources, outline of paper, draft of each section, final paper due. Depending on the type of project, IRB approval or project-specific deadlines.

Set expectations about the final product

e.g. What sections should to be included (e.g. literature review)? Expected length?