The proposal should be specific, clear and succinct: what the student wishes to investigate, what research has been done on the subject, why the subject is worthy of investigation and what methodology will be used in the research.

The proposal should be two to three pages (single-spaced), plus a preliminary bibliography.

On the proposal form, identify which of the options you will use to complete your Senior Project. No matter which option you choose, your written proposal should have the following five sections:

**Statement of Problem or Research Question (a few sentences)**

Your research begins with the identification of a disciplinary problem needing a solution, an unanswered question, or a claim needing proof. Because the engineering Senior Project is a group effort, it is necessary to clarify precisely your individual contribution to the project. You must demonstrate that you have engaged with the project to a deeper level than your non-Honors classmates. Consider the question, “What makes my contribution worthy of Honors credit?” just as you have done for Honors contract courses. Consider the following topics:

- a more comprehensive search and analysis of the specialist literature;
- a consideration of the historical context of the problem your team sought to solve;
- an essay on the engineering/technical ramifications of your group project; and
- an excursus on other, broader applications your project might inspire in the real world;

**Summary Review of Scholarship Relevant to the Project (a few paragraphs)**

Briefly summarize what is already known about the problem you will be addressing. You may use past examples, plans, engineering diagrams or other appropriate scholarship. Many group projects are a prototype of a future model. If this is the case, remember that the prototype is still based on existing theories.

You might begin by using Google Scholar, a link to which may be found on the library homepage.

**Significance**

How will your individual contribution to the group project contribute to the overall topic? Describe how it will contribute to the body of knowledge in your field or profession.

**Methodology (a few paragraphs)**

Indicate the manner in which the problem, question, or claim to be investigated will be researched and why your methodology is appropriate. You should conceive of this value-added component as a supplement to the team project rather than a stand-alone thesis. Many students find it appropriate to include this component in narrative form as a final chapter of the thesis (introduction, literature review, methodology, and your narrative).

**Preliminary Bibliography**

Attach a preliminary list of relevant scholarly sources as noted above in the Summary Review section. For the Senior Project proposal, students **should have no less than five sources**: more if possible. Additionally, list the other students in your group and their individual responsibilities within the larger project.