

HONORS THESIS GUIDELINES

A complete guidebook for the Honors Thesis
Requirements across all disciplines for
Faculty and Student



HONORS COLLEGE

Honors Thesis Requirements

Completing an Honors thesis or creative project is an important part of graduating with Honors College Distinction. It gives Honors students an advantage as they apply for graduate and professional school as well as in consideration for employment. It is an accomplishment that shows search committees and potential employers that you possess the skills, determination, and focus to complete long-term, intensive projects.

Honors theses vary according to discipline, but they all share certain characteristics: they represent creative and original individual student work on an idea or problem; and they would be recognized as significant, noteworthy achievements by leaders in their respective fields.

Students work with a faculty mentor who can guide them and who will be one of the signatories designating that the student has completed appropriate work to be recognized as worthy of Honors College Distinction.

Honors College Thesis Project Guidelines

In general, an honors thesis will take the form of a longer research paper or a more developed creative project. The scope and length of the work will fall somewhere between a typical capstone project and a master's thesis. Common elements of these include engaging in creative activity, using imagination, pursuing curiosity, developing a productive relationship with a faculty thesis advisor, working hard and making a formal paper and oral presentation on the thesis project. The thesis product should represent sustained work over more than one semester. However, there is also significant variation in theses. A thesis in the creative arts is a different kind of project from a thesis based upon laboratory research and both are different from social science research or literary research. Thesis requirements recognize these differences and allow for the flexibility for students to be creative in their own areas of interest and expertise.

The typical thesis experience will be structured with the following courses:

In HONR 2102 Honors students will begin to think about what big questions might motivate a research project. They are encouraged to think about how scholars ask big questions and how they begin to find out what other people have to say about those problems.

In HONR 3102 Honors students write their thesis proposal and submit it to the Honors College by the end of this course.

In HONR 4102 Honors students write their thesis. The thesis need not be completed during this course, but students should have a very clear idea of the required format and presentation of the content such that they can independently complete the thesis to submit to their faculty advisor and the Honors College. Theses are due the last day of classes of the semester in which the student will graduate.

Format of Honors Thesis

All Honors theses will include a formal written component and formal oral presentation. Different types of theses might be conceived as follows:

Research Paper: This is a paper that includes first-hand data from experiments, clinical research, surveys, and other data sources. It may entail quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches to data analysis. It may include laboratory or field work and/or research or surveys including human subjects (with the guidance of an adviser trained in human subjects research and formal approval of the Institutional Research Board). Other approval may also be required for projects involving the use of animal subjects or controlled substances. Students will be guided by their faculty advisor for such approvals.

Scholarly Research Paper: A paper that uses original and secondary published sources to formulate a question and make a creative contribution to the literature. The paper may be a review and synthesis of the literature or an original paper.

Portfolio: Primarily for Fine Arts majors. A formal compilation of a student's artistry created as part of their fine arts classes. This option will include a formal reflection paper.

Fine Arts display or performance: Presentation of a student's creative artistry (e.g. music and vocal recitals; art, film, theatrical performance, and photography exhibits). This option includes a formal reflection paper.

Coordinating the Honors Thesis with Major Requirements

Honors students are strongly encouraged to investigate linking their Honors thesis with major requirements such as a departmental capstone project. In some cases, a major requirement can be augmented to satisfy the requirements of the Honors thesis. In other cases, a student might wish to enroll in an independent study course within their major, the aim of which would be to complete an Honors thesis. Alternatively, the thesis could be an independent research project outside the confines of any course. It is important to note that students who pursue the thesis within a regular course must include a reasonable additional component to convert a major requirement into an Honors thesis. They cannot simply double-count a departmental requirement for the Honors thesis.

Please see page 7 for a list of majors and the specific requirements pertaining to an Honors Thesis within each major.

Honors Thesis Advisor

Selecting a faculty thesis advisor is as important as selecting a topic. Students work very closely with an advisor throughout the thesis experience, relying on the advisor to guide the direction of the creative work, review and edit the thesis itself, and assist with preparing for the thesis presentation. The thesis advisor is responsible for regularly meeting with the Honors student.

To be a faculty thesis advisor, the faculty member must 1) work at UWG as a regular full-time, regular part-time, or Emeritus faculty member above the rank of instructor (Lecturer, Assistant, Associate, or Professor); 2) have attained a terminal degree in his or her field; 3) be on campus during the semester in which the student will be submitting the thesis.

Specifications for final copy of Honors thesis

Submission of a completed Honors Thesis/Creative Project is required for honors graduation. Theses should be submitted according to the following guidelines:

1. A full hard copy of the thesis should be printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper on a quality printer.
2. Pages should be printed single-sided only and should NOT be bound or stapled.
3. If color is used in charts, graphs, or images, those pages should be printed on a color printer.
4. Hard copy must include an original signature from the faculty mentor.
5. Additionally, an electronic copy of the final work must be submitted to the Honors College email address at honors@westga.edu.
6. Thesis must be submitted to the Honors House no later than 5:00pm on the last day of classes in the semester the student intends to graduate. Due dates will be listed on the Honors College website.

Students whose work falls outside the boundaries of a traditional research paper (e.g. music recital or art portfolio) will submit some form of permanent record of their creative activity (e.g. video, portfolio, audio CD, etc.) and an electronic copy of the typed formal reflection paper.

Specifications for formal reflection paper (for creative arts)

Papers must include 1) an explanation of the topic area and reasons for choosing it; 2) the steps taken to complete the project; 3) a description of the final work; 4) an assessment of the importance of the creative activity and how it contributed to the learning process and/or prepared the student for a career; and 5) a brief reflection about the overall thesis experience.

Honors thesis oral presentation

The Honors thesis oral presentation is an opportunity to formally present your creative activities to your advisor, other faculty, other students, and the dean of the Honors College. The presentation is approximately ten to fifteen minutes followed by a question and answer session with the audience. This is primarily to be viewed as a celebratory event. Students are also strongly encouraged to submit their thesis project for presentation at the annual Scholars' Day Undergraduate Research Conference in the spring semester on campus.

Specific Requirements by Major

Locate your major in the following list in order to see what the specific requirements are within your major. If you do not find your major in this list, please consult with the Dean of the Honors College for assistance.

Accounting:

Students wishing to write a thesis in this major should consult with the chair of the department.

Anthropology:

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting an upper division ANTH course for Honors College credit (where the honors component requires the writing of the thesis), through an ANTH 4881 Independent Study course, or working independently with a faculty mentor. The student's work should be roughly 20-25 pages in length with a significant number of sources cited representing a depth and complexity of research that moves somewhat beyond expectations of an upper division Anthropology course. It must formulate a question and make a creative contribution to the literature either through original research or through a substantive review and synthesis of published sources.

Art:

Studio Art: Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting ART 4998 Studio Capstone I and ART 4999 Studio Capstone II for Honors College credit. In ART 4998, students will submit an extended thesis exhibition proposal, outlining personal artistic interests, applicable research, examinations and examples of personal works and works of others which influence and support their thesis exhibition plan. Thesis Exhibition proposals will be submitted to the student's thesis committee for approval prior to submitting it to Honors College by the end of this course. exhibition in the form of an artist's gallery talk.

The Honors art studio student will also complete a brief written thesis summary outlining the student's area of research and reasons for choosing it. Students will submit a final professionally prepared portfolio of completed art works and their thesis exhibition, copies of their reflective writing, current resume and the student's artist/exhibition statement. The thesis will be completed during ART 4999, submitted to the student's Art Thesis Committee for prior approval, before it is submitted to the Honors College. Completed portfolios and the reflective writing with committee signatures will be due the last day classes during the semester in which the student will graduate. One copy must be submitted to the Art Office and one copy submitted to the Honors College. This should be taken in the same semester as HONR 4102.

The thesis for Studio Art students will include a formal exhibition of creative research and investigation for public viewing and critique. A formal compilation of the student's creative research and artistic investigations created as part of the student's degree program will be submitted as part of the student professional thesis portfolio. The Studio Art thesis includes a formal reflection paper which outlines the student's artistic interest investigation and a summary of the thesis process.

Papers must include

1. Explanation of the student's creative research topic and a justification as to why it was selected;
2. The steps taken to complete the creative research;
3. A description of the final body of artwork(s);
4. An assessment of the importance of the creative activity and how it contributed to the learning process and/or prepared the student for a career;
5. A brief reflection about the overall thesis experience.

Art History Concentration: Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting ART 4298 Capstone I in Art History and ART 4299 Capstone II in Art History for Honors College credit. In ART 4298, students will finalize a thesis topic and complete research for their final project. Student will present these within their written thesis proposal and submit it to their thesis committee for approval prior to submitting it to Honors College by the end of this course. This should be taken in the same semester as HONR 3102. In ART 4299, students will complete an extended written senior thesis paper which is then orally presented in a public presentation, open to the university and local community. Students will present 3 separate copies of their thesis paper, professionally printed and ready for binding, complete with a title page with the student's signature, and signatures of each member of the student thesis committee. The thesis will be completed during ART 4299, submitted to the student's Art Thesis Committee for prior approval, before it is submitted to the Honors College. The three copies will be due the last day classes during the semester in which the student will graduate. Two copies must be presented to the Art Office and one copy to the Honors College. This should be taken in the same semester as HONR 4102.

Art History students will most likely complete a scholarly paper that uses original and secondary published sources to formulate a question and make a creative contribution to the discipline. The paper may be a review and synthesis of an artist, art work(s), movement(s), or other such applicable subjects as determined by the students and their thesis committee. Art history students may also opt to prepare and present an exhibition of works, which examine their topic and which could accommodate aspects of their thesis requirements. Art History students will be guided by their thesis committee regarding appropriate disciplinary approaches and thesis guidelines.

Biology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their BIOL 4983 Senior Research course for Honors College credit, or through a BIOL 4981 Independent Study course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research (either laboratory research, or scientific literature research) that would include the typical aspects of a scientific paper, e.g., Introduction, Description of Research Methodology, Literature Review, Presentation of Research Data or Findings, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, Conclusion.

Chemistry

Option 1A (Non-ACS-certified concentrations): Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CHEM4910L Tools and Applications in Chemistry Research and Practice for Honors credit. The project component of the course will be used to carry out the proposed research from HONR3102 and complete an Honors Thesis. This thesis must have significantly more additional components than the report required for the course. Option 2 (ACS-certified concentrations): Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CHEM4084 Senior Seminar for Honors credit. Students will develop the senior thesis based on Faculty-Directed Research (CHEM4083) into Honors Thesis by (i) adding a section addressing a research question developed in HONR3102, relevant to the Faculty-Directed Research topic, and (ii) a reflection component that culminates the research experience to themselves and to the world. Option 3 (either concentration): Students may convert CHEM4081 Independent Study for Honors credit and write an Honors Thesis that is not directly relevant to CHEM4083 or CHEM4910L based on literature search, addressing a research question developed in HONR3102. Roughly 20-pages in length with a significant number of sources cited.

Computer Science

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either as a project-based thesis or as a research paper. For project-based theses students may convert the CS 4982 Computing Capstone or CS 4981 Independent Study course for Honors credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails 1) the implementation of a project; 2) documentation of the software; and 3) a technical review. For research theses students may convert the CS 4983 Directed course for Honors credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails an assessment of a particular approach based on computational results or on a literature survey.

Criminology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their CRIM 4284 Senior Capstone course for Honors College credit, or through a CRIM 4981 Directed Readings in Criminology course. CRIM 3240 Criminological Theory, CRIM 4001 Survey Research Methods, and CRIM 4003 Statistics for Social Sciences should be considered courses useful in building towards a thesis project. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 20-25 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction stating a specific hypothesis; Description of Research Methodology and Theoretical Background for Research Design, or Data Source; Literature Review; Presentation of Research Data or Findings; Analysis of Research Data or Findings; Conclusion. The thesis should represent knowledge of SPSS.

Economics

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their ECON 4484 Seminar in Economics course for Honors College credit, or through an ECON 4485 Independent Study course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 20 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction stating a specific hypothesis, Description of Research Methodology or Data Source, Literature Review, Presentation of Research Data or Findings, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, Conclusion.

Elementary Education

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting their Teaching Internship Seminar (ECED 4289) for Honors College credit. The thesis itself should be a scholarly piece of writing that contains an analysis of relevant scholarship in Elementary Education that aims to answer an unresolved question related to teaching and learning in today's K-5 schools. The student's work should be roughly 20 pages in length and would include a statement of the question and its importance as well as a summary and analysis of published research on the topic. The thesis should end with the identification of gaps in the research for future study.

Elementary/Special Education:

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their Teaching Internship Seminar (ECSE 4789) for Honors College credit. The thesis itself should be a scholarly piece of writing that contains an analysis of relevant scholarship in inclusive Elementary Education that aims to answer an unresolved question related to teaching and learning in today's K-5 inclusion classrooms. The student's work should be roughly 20 pages in length and would include a statement of the question and its importance as well as a summary and analysis of published research on the topic. The thesis should end with the identification of gaps in the research for future study.

English

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their ENGL 4384 Senior Seminar for Honors College credit, through an ENGL 4381 Independent Study course, or working independently with a faculty mentor. The student's work should be roughly 20 pages in length with a significant number of sources cited representing a depth and complexity of research that moves somewhat beyond expectations of senior seminar.

Finance

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting FINC 4531 Intermediate Corporate Finance for Honors Credit. The thesis itself would entail a deeper, more expansive project than is normally required for this course.

Geology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting the GEOL 4082 Geological Problems or GEOL 4604 Economic Geology course for Honors credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails an expanded written component that includes a literature review, description of research method, and a distillation of research results.

Geography

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting the GEOG 4083 Faculty-Mentored Research course as well as the GEOG 4084 Capstone course for Honors credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails an expanded written component that includes a literature review, description of research method, and a distillation of research results.

Global Studies:

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting their GLOB 4000 capstone seminar course for Honors College credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 20-25 pages in length. The thesis must demonstrate interdisciplinarity; this objective can be accomplished in a number of ways, including the application of diverse methodologies, theoretical frameworks, or epistemologies. It must formulate a question and make a creative contribution to the literature either through original research or through a substantive review and synthesis of published sources. Students intending to do a project including human subjects should be aware that they may need Institutional Review Board approval and should speak with a faculty advisor in their Junior year.

Health and Community Wellness

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CMWL 4103 Research Methods for Honors credit. Students will complete a research project in which they will create a research proposal. Students will extend the current research project by conducting a literature review, methodology, and data collection, ending with presenting the initial findings of the study at the UWG Scholar's Day. Alternatively, students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CMWL 3101 Mental and Emotional Wellness for Honors credit. Students can convert the Applied Social Emotional Workbook into an applied presentation or Lunch N' Learn. Students would be expected to implement a lesson from their Applied Social Emotional Workbook with their target audience and reflect on implementation and outcomes. As a third option, students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CMWL 4102 Service Learning in Health and Community Wellness for Honors credit. Students will complete an action research project. Students will extend the service learning community health assignment to a research project or presentation, showing future direction with a community organization or program partner.

Finally, students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting CMWL 3220 Health Promotion, Education, and Program Evaluation for Honors credit. Students will complete a research project. Students will extend the health promotion and planning assignment to a research project or presentation. Students would be expected to evaluate a program with their target audience and reflect on implementation and outcomes of this project within health and wellness.

History

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting their HIST 4484 Senior Seminar course for Honors credit and fulfilling one of the following options: 1) writing a thesis of 20 to 25 pages that displays substantial additional work, such as working extensively with unpublished primary sources or working extensively in a language other than English; 2) writing a Senior Seminar paper and preparing an additional project based on the paper's research; 3) preparing and delivering a paper at an academic conference based on the paper; 4) for students pursuing the Undergraduate Public History Certificate, an exhibit based on the Senior Seminar paper; 5) an original, semi-independent research paper 35 to 40 pages in length.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by completing their required Capstone Experience, which is submitted in XIDS 4000 (Interdisciplinary Capstone). XIDS 3000 (Interdisciplinary Methods) and XIDS 4000, in which some of the capstone work is carried out, can both be converted for Honors credit. The Capstone Experience required of all BIS majors must exhibit integration or synthesis of multiple disciplinary insights, concepts, and/or methods/techniques, and must demonstrate a creative, evaluative, and/or analytical achievement.

International Languages and Cultures:

French: Students majoring in French may complete an Honors Thesis by converting FREN 4484 Senior Capstone for Honors credit. The project must be written in French, be 12 pages long with a minimum of four scholarly sources integrated into the paper, and presented in French at the capstone event.

Additionally, students will adapt their project by writing an English version of their paper to present at a conference or venue agreed upon with the capstone director, and will submit a 2-page reflection paper in which they articulate 1) The Big Question of their paper; 2) Why this topic is important; and 3) What needs to be communicated about the French/Francophone cultural context of their work so that a general audience can understand its importance.

German

Students majoring in German may complete an Honors Thesis by converting GERM 4484 Senior Capstone for Honors credit. The project must be a substantive reworking of an existing paper—or a new paper if no appropriate draft is available—to improve and expand the argument. The paper should be 8 pages; about 2 pages longer than the standard capstone paper. It should use 2 bibliographic sources with which the paper engages, with 5 bibliographic sources in an annotated bibliography. Additional adaptation of the paper to create a 10-minute presentation for an English-speaking audience will also be required.

Alternatively, students majoring in German may complete an Honors Thesis by doing an 8-page translation of a text that has been agreed upon with a faculty mentor. This paper would also include a 5-page commentary explaining context, potential interpretations, etc., with references to secondary literature, and an annotated bibliography with at least 5 sources.

Spanish

Students majoring in Spanish may complete an Honors Thesis by converting SPAN 4484 Senior Capstone for Honors Credit. The Honors Thesis should be 12-15 pages long, include a minimum of six secondary sources, be written in Spanish and presented at the capstone oral presentations event. Students who choose to make the capstone project their Honors Thesis will also do a 10-minute oral presentation in English to an English-speaking audience. The presentation should address the main question of the research, its importance, and a reflection on the process and the adaptation to a non-Spanish speaking audience.

Alternatively, students majoring in Spanish may complete an Honors Thesis by doing an 8-page translation with a 5-page commentary that addresses the context, the process, and the interpretations; as well as the required annotated bibliography for all capstone projects in Spanish. Students who choose this option, will also do a 10-minute oral presentation in English to an English-speaking audience. The presentation should address the main question of the research, its importance, and reflect on the process and the adaptation.

Management

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting a MGNT 3000/4000 level course for Honors credit or through an Independent Study course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be 15-20 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction (stating a specific research problem), Literature Review, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, and Conclusion. Additionally, at the discretion of the faculty advisor, students may also be required to make a research presentation.

Management Information Systems

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting a CISM 3000/4000 level course for Honors credit or through an Independent Study course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be 15-20 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction (stating a specific research problem), Literature Review, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, and Conclusion. Additionally, at the discretion of the faculty advisor, students may also be required to make a research presentation.

Marketing:

Students may complete an Honors Thesis in Marketing by 1) converting an upper-level marketing course for Honors credit or 2) completing an Independent Study course. The thesis work is semi-independent work focusing on a specific research topic in the field of Marketing, approved by the faculty advisor. The length of the thesis will be determined by the faculty advisor, and the student may also be required to present her/his research at a student research conference/seminar or in the Marketing class.

Mass Communications

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting their COMM 4484 Research Methods course for Honors credit, or through a COMM 4381 Independent Study course or even a

combination of these two approaches with the Independent Study project undertaken in the semester preceding the Senior Seminar course during which the student would expand upon the same research project. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 25 to 30 pages in length.

Mass Communications with Journalism Concentration

Students may complete an Honors Thesis through a COMM 4381 Independent Study course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 25 to 30 pages in length.

Mass Communications with Digital Media Concentration

Students may complete an Honors Thesis through a COMM 4381 Independent Study course in conjunction with their capstone experience. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 25 to 30 pages in length.

Mass Communications with Film and Video Production Concentration:

Students may complete an Honors Thesis through converting COMM 4425 Documentary Production Practices or COMM 4426 Fiction Film Production for Honors credit. The thesis itself should include an enhanced Production Book which includes a significant representation of background research.

Mass Communications with Public Relations Concentration

Students may complete an Honors Thesis through converting COMM 4444 Public Relations Campaigns for Honors credit. The thesis itself should include an enhanced Public Relations Campaign Proposal which includes a significant representation of background research.

Mathematics:

Students wishing to write a thesis in this major should consult with the chair of the department.

Music:

Students wishing to write a thesis in this major should consult with the chair of the department.

Nursing

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting an Honors designated nursing course (see BSN Student Handbook Honors Program section) for Honors College credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 15—20 pages in length. The Honors Thesis should include the following sections: Introduction stating a specific research question; Background and Literature Review; Description of Research Methodology; Analysis of Research Data; Discussion of Research Findings; and Conclusion. It may entail quantitative, qualitative or multi-method approaches to data collection and analysis.

Philosophy

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their PHIL 4300 Senior Seminar course for Honors College credit, or through a PHIL 4381 Independent Study course. The thesis should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would address a philosophical topic in-depth, would engage with secondary sources and exhibit awareness of the contemporary on-going academic conversation about the topic. The thesis would be roughly 6,000 words in length and may include an annotated bibliography.

Physical Education

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting 4689 Teaching Internship Seminar for Honors credit. Students will do an action research project. Students would be expected to extend a class assignment (Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program Project) by completing the implementation, results, and implications for future direction at a K-12 school.

Physics

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting PHYS 3511 Experimental Physics I or PHYS 3521 Experimental Physics II for Honors College credit, or through a PHYS 4683 Physics Research course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails a written component which includes a literature review, description of research method, and a distillation of research results.

Political Science

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their POLS 4984 Senior Seminar course for Honors College credit, or through an POLS 4981 Directed Readings in Political Science course. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 20-25 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction stating a specific hypothesis, Description of Research Methodology or Data Source, Literature Review, Presentation of Research Data or Findings, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, Conclusion.

Psychology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting their PSYC 4884 Integrative Seminar course for Honors College credit, or through an PSYC 4385 Independent Study course or even a combination of these two approaches with the Independent Study project undertaken in the semester preceding the Integrative Seminar course during which the student would push the same research project further. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 25 to 50 pages in length and would include the following: Introduction, Description of Research Methodology, Literature Review, Presentation of Research Data or Findings, Analysis of Research Data or Findings, Conclusion.

Sociology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting SOCI 4983 Senior Thesis course for Honors credit. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that would be roughly 20-25 pages in length and may include the following: Introduction; Description of Research Methodology and Theoretical Background for Research Design, or Data Source; Literature Review; Presentation of Research Data or Findings; Analysis of Research Data or Findings; Conclusion. Students intending to do a project including human subjects should be aware that they may need Institutional Review Board approval and should speak with a faculty advisor in their Junior year.

Special Education

Students may complete an Honors Thesis either by converting SPED 3700, SPED 3703, SPED 3760, SPED 4760, or SPED 4789 for Honors College credit, or by working independently with a faculty member on a research project. The thesis itself should represent some form of original, semi-independent research that entails an expanded written component that includes a literature review, a description of the research method, and a distillation of research results.

Speech-Language Pathology

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting 4784 Professional Practices for Honors credit. Students will do a group project where they have to research a related profession (OT, PT, Speech Education). Those doing an Honors project could be required to do an ethnographic interview with a person in the profession.

Alternatively, students may convert SLPA 4724 Counseling Issues in Communication Disorders for Honors credit. They would be expected to extend a class assignment (where they interview a caregiver) into a case study using informational interviewing and ethnographic data collection.

Sport Management

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting SPMG 4686: Internship or SPMG 4680: Applied Research Methods in Sport for Honors credit. This allows students to complete their Honors Thesis regardless of internship or course-work track. Students would be expected to extend a class assignment by developing a Scholarly Research Paper related to their specific internship or area of research interest; both extended assignments will additionally require an oral defense to be scheduled with Sport Management faculty.

Theater

Students may complete an Honors Thesis by converting their THEA 4111 Performance and Production Senior Capstone course for Honors College credit. The thesis itself should expand upon the Senior Capstone project through a description of background research that represents a deeper level of engagement with secondary sources, and a detailed response paper explaining creative motivations for directing or production decisions.



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