

## Guide to Honors Theses for Faculty Mentors

Completion of an Honors Thesis is a requirement for students pursuing the Distinguished Honors College Scholar Award or the Advanced Honors College Scholar Award (for transfer students). This guide provides information about thesis research and standard timelines for supervision of projects.

### About Honors College Thesis Projects

<b>Project Scope</b>	A thesis project is an extended piece of independent student research. The student is responsible for all aspects of the project's planning and execution. Projects must draw on scholarly resources and follow the conventions of research/creative activity in their discipline.
<b>Project Length</b>	Completion of a thesis is a multiple-semester process that includes development of a thesis proposal, at least 1 semester (3 credits) of thesis work, and a thesis defense.
<b>Supervision</b>	During the semester in which the student is enrolled for thesis credit, they should meet regularly with their faculty mentor(s). Mentors provide guidance as the student completes the project.
<b>Project Submission and Evaluation</b>	Students should plan to defend their theses at the Honors College Thesis Day during the semester in which they are enrolled for thesis credit. The thesis committee and the Associate Dean of the Honors College must agree that the work meets standards for Honors thesis credit. If either finds the project inadequate, the student will not receive Honors thesis credit.

### Thesis Timeline

<b>Thesis proposal due to the Honors College prior to enrollment in a thesis credit course (4951).</b> Student must have a completed thesis proposal approved by their faculty mentor, the mentor's department chair, and the Honors College to enroll for Honors thesis credit. If the student's project requires IRB approval, a copy of a completed IRB application must accompany the proposal.	End of prior semester
<b>Completed thesis draft due to committee members.</b> Students submit a completed draft of their thesis to their committee. Committee members review the project and may require revisions.	End of 12 <sup>th</sup> week of semester
<b>Faculty mentor approves project for defense.</b> A student cannot defend a thesis without approval from their faculty mentor.	Prior to scheduled defense
<b>Thesis defense at Honors College Thesis Day</b> The Honors College hosts defenses in Sage Hall between noon and 5:00 pm on Thesis Day. Alternative defense dates will be scheduled if faculty mentors are unavailable on Honors College Thesis Days.	Last Friday in the semester before Reading Day