

Thesis: Track 1, Track 2, Writing and Speaking

Completion of the Honors Senior Thesis is required for students to graduate with an Honors Scholar designation. Students in Track 1 do not need to complete a thesis in their major although they usually do. Track 2 students **MUST** complete a thesis within their major.

The writing component varies by the type of Honors thesis (e.g. research, design project, artistry, and/or scholarship). The length and style conforms to the accepted norms in these areas. The speaking portion consists of a minimum fifteen minute to twenty minute formal extemporaneous oral presentation by the Honors student followed by a question and answer session with the committee and guests.

HONR 399 & HONR 499 The Honors Senior Thesis

- Students enroll in a one credit pre-thesis course, HONR 399, one to two semesters before registering for the thesis (HONR 499). Students prepare a Preliminary Honors Thesis Proposal as part of this class. This Preliminary Proposal describes the basic idea for the thesis and requires the signature of the thesis adviser.
- HONR 499 is a three credit course which does not have regular class meetings.
- Students must complete the Honors Formal Thesis Proposal, signed by the thesis adviser, and submit it to the Honors office no later than the second week of the semester in which they are registered for HONR 499.
- A penultimate draft should be given to the Thesis advisor and committee member by the tenth week of the semester.
- Students should complete the formal oral presentation by the twelfth week and must submit an electronic copy of the final thesis to the Honors Program office by the end of finals week.



University Honors Program Committee Member's Guide to the Senior Honors Thesis



Live Learn Grow

“Everything” you need to know about serving as a committee member for the Senior Honors Thesis

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What is the Senior Honors Thesis?

The Honors thesis is the quintessential capstone experience that allows students to explore academic areas of their most passionate interests, engage in the process of discovery, and make a creative contribution in their areas of interest and expertise.

The Honors thesis is a three (3) credit experience supervised by a thesis committee of at least two faculty members (a faculty thesis adviser and a faculty committee member). The thesis has both writing and speaking components.

Honors theses come in a variety of formats but all include a formal written component and a formal oral presentation. Theses such as a musical recital, art portfolio or engineering design project *must* include a formal reflection paper. The following formats have been utilized by students in the past:

- Research or scholarly paper
- Business plan
- Portfolio
- Education unit
- Fine arts display
- Musical or theatrical performance
- Design project

Committee Member Requirements & Responsibilities

To be a committee member, you must:

- Work at CSU as a full-time, part-time, or transitional academic faculty member above the rank of instructor (Assistant, Associate, Professor), or be an Emeritus Professor.
- Have attained a doctorate (Ph.D.) or the terminal degree in your field.
- Be on campus during the semester in which the student is completing his/her thesis.
- Be familiar with the requirements in the *Honors Thesis Guide*.

(www.honors.colostate.edu/forms)

Exceptions to these requirements must be approved by the Honors thesis adviser and the Honors Program Director. The procedure for making the request is in the Honors Thesis Guide.

As a committee member, you:

- May serve as a resource for the student.
- May review the penultimate draft of the thesis and forward comments to the thesis adviser.
- Must participate in the oral thesis presentation, discuss recommendations for the final grade with the thesis adviser, provide feedback on the presentation, and sign the affirmation statement on the Honors Thesis Evaluation Form.

Note: The thesis adviser makes the final decision about the recommendations and the final thesis grade; your comments and observations are an important part of the process. Your signature indicates only that the student gave a formal presentation on the thesis.