

## HONR 499 The Honors Senior Thesis

- This is a three (3) credit course which does not have regular class meetings. Students schedule times to meet with you (to discuss research, review drafts, etc).
- Students must complete the Honors Formal Thesis Proposal, signed by you, and submit it to the Honors office no later than the third week of the semester in which they are registered for HONR 499.
- A penultimate draft should be given to you and the other committee member(s) by the tenth week of the semester.
- Students are responsible for completing the formal oral presentation by the fifteenth week and submitting a final electronic copy of the thesis, which incorporates your recommendations, to the Honors office by the end of finals week.
- The faculty adviser completes and signs the evaluation form for the student's formal oral presentation, and may utilize input from the committee member(s).
- The evaluation form, signed by you and the committee member(s), must be turned in to the Honors Office by the last day of finals week to receive a grade in that semester.
- As a faculty thesis adviser, you will determine the thesis grade based on the quality of the student's work, the written component, and the oral presentation.
- Grading is based on the traditional +/- scale; most students who do high quality work and meet the expectations of their thesis adviser have earned an A+, A, or A-.
- Students who do not submit an electronic copy of the final thesis and signed thesis evaluation form by the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in HONR 499 will receive an "I" grade until the thesis is completed.

## Final Thoughts

The Senior Honors Thesis is ultimately an individualized research or other creative activity developed and completed by the student with your assistance. It is expected that you will be available for the student to help with formulating ideas, editing drafts of the project, and preparing for the formal presentation. The hope is that both you and your student will find the completion of the thesis to be an enjoyable and enriching process.

The UHP provides limited financial support for thesis completion. The options include: 1) thesis payment to adviser or 2) adviser supports student application to Thesis Improvement Grant. Details are found in the thesis guide.

The Honors thesis (3 credits) typically requires much less work than a Master's thesis. Although there is a question and answer session, the Honors thesis experience is much more of a celebration than an interrogation.

### University Honors Program

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## University Honors Program Thesis Adviser's Guide to the Senior Honors Thesis



*Live Learn Grow*

***"Everything" you need to know  
about advising the Senior Honors  
Thesis***

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[www.honors.colostate.edu](http://www.honors.colostate.edu)

## 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 and 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 or portfolio
- Education unit
- Fine arts display or performance
- Group design project

## Adviser Requirements and Responsibilities

### To be a faculty thesis adviser, you must:

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

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

### A faculty thesis adviser:

- Advises and mentors the Honors student throughout the thesis experience.
- Guides the student in refining the topic, developing approaches to the creative activity, and providing key sources of information.
- Reviews and makes recommendations on the student's thesis drafts.
- Works with the student to jointly select a committee member.
- Mentors the student for the oral presentation on the thesis.
- Assigns a grade based on the quality of the student's research/creative activity, written work, and oral presentation (10% of final grade).

## 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 most do). Track 2 students **MUST** complete a thesis within their major with an adviser within their major.

All theses require a substantial and scholarly written component. The written component varies by the type of Honors thesis (e.g., research, design project, artistry, and/or scholarship). The format conforms to the accepted norms in these areas. The speaking portion consists of either 1) a minimum 15-20 minute formal oral presentation or 2) a poster presentation at a University-sponsored or professional meeting followed by a question and answer session with the committee and guests.

## HONR 399 The Honors Pre-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 Thesis Proposal describing the basic idea of the thesis. This must be approved and signed by the thesis adviser before the student submits it to the HONR 399 instructor.