



HONORS THESIS GUIDELINES

FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY MENTORS & HONORS FACULTY ADVISORS

What is an Honors Thesis?

The culmination of the Honors Bachelors degree, the Honors Thesis is a significant undergraduate research project completed under the supervision of a faculty member approved by the Honors Faculty Advisor in the student's major. Its purpose is to advance knowledge and understanding within the context of a research university and to further develop the student's intellectual, professional and personal growth as a member of the Honors College. Thesis projects may take different forms in different majors – e.g. laboratory experiments, historical research or artistic creations, to name a few – but *always demonstrate research expertise in the major field, a command of relevant scholarship and an effort to contribute to that scholarship.*

Who Approves Honors Theses Topics?

Each *department* defines the appropriate topics, parameters and standards of honors theses research. Faculty outside of the major may supervise theses projects with the approval of the Honors Faculty Advisor in the student's major. Topics might be developed out of faculty research, coursework, class projects, UROP projects, community engaged research or even internships. The required **Thesis Proposal Form** must be signed by *both* the Thesis Faculty Mentor and the Honors Faculty Advisor within the student's major.

How long is an Honors Thesis?

There is no uniform required length for Honors Theses, which vary widely across different fields and topics. However, a range of 30-40 pages is common. Honors Faculty Advisors in each major and the Faculty Mentor will set specific expectations.

Thesis Expectations for students and Thesis Faculty Mentors

A successful honors thesis requires viable goals and a realistic timetable in addition to the skills appropriate to the particular discipline and topic.

Thesis Faculty Mentors must establish clear expectations for the scope of research, the timeline of student meetings, submitted drafts and the final completion of the thesis.

Students completing Honors Theses are also expected to participate in the University's campus-wide *Undergraduate Research Symposium* that takes place each spring.

The Honors College offers students significant support with time management, basic library research, and writing workshops.

Deadlines

Thesis Proposal Forms are due at the beginning of the semester prior to graduation (i.e. September for students graduating in the spring), but we encourage the submission of the proposal as early as possible.

Completed Theses signed by the Faculty Mentor, Honors Faculty Advisor, and Chair/Program Head are due in the Honors Center in Fort Douglass the last day of classes in the semester in which the student graduates. A pre-formatted word.doc and pdf template for your final thesis is available on our website www.honors.utah.edu

For **questions** regarding the Honors Theses please contact Director of Student Services Aaron Reynolds, a.reynolds@honors.utah.edu