



Honors Thesis Course - HON 4998

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What is the thesis course - HON 4998?

The HON 4998 course is your last honors class and your thesis project. It is typically taken in the fall semester of your senior year. The thesis work is a crowning achievement of all your hard work. For many, a thesis is the culmination of many years of study within a particular major or field; it is the result of a lengthy thinking process.

“it’s an extended Academic Essay”

In your senior year, view the thesis work as the final component, or last opportunity that you may have to show off what you have learned and internalized. It should challenge an intellectual question in a persuasive manner, inciting thought-provoking discussion or argument in readers. College theses are mostly just extended academic essays, though it is important to include all the elements that are expected in a well-developed college thesis. Thus, completing this Honors requirement provides you an opportunity to design a unique project that will challenge you to reflect upon your Honors education.

Your thesis work should be the climax of your undergraduate work and a bridge to your future career or academic life. Completion of the thesis is one of the hallmarks of a quality Honors education. The thesis also provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to work closely with faculty members on campus who share similar research or creative interests.



What can the thesis project do for you?

Your thesis can provide entrée to the world of academic and professional research. It can lead to a publication and/or a conference presentation. Furthermore, faculty members who serve as thesis mentors, often will write strong letters for graduate/professional schools or positions in the labor force.

In addition, prospective employers and professional school admissions committees are impressed by the dedication and discipline required to write a thesis.

"it's not just another Term Paper"

A thesis is not just another research or term paper. Your thesis work should thoroughly investigate previous research on a topic and include your own insights and contributions to the topic. Many theses attempt to answer an academic question or test a hypothesis. Students in art, music, creative writing, or film studies, for example, may choose to complete a "creative project." In this case, your written paper would be a contextual analysis of the work that you completed and would provide a lens through which an audience evaluates your work. The information provided here will help you complete your honors thesis and answer basic questions about the process. The advisors in the Honors College are available to talk with you further about this requirement and to guide you to a successful completion.

What should you do first?

Register for HON 4998 in the Fall semester of your senior year. Next, identify a WSU faculty member to mentor you. Then plan to attend the Thesis Informational session (1.5 hours) in the same semester that you register. Students can register earlier – i.e., *end of your 3rd year – spr/sum semester*. The goal of the Info-session is to provide resources to start your thesis project.

With the HON 4998 course, you may choose your thesis to be an independent research paper/project, a literature review, or a creative project. Each option is completed with the guidance of a full-time faculty member of your choosing. The course can be taken for 3-6 credits. A 3-credit thesis paper is at least 20 pages of content. Each additional credit increases the length of the final project.

Similarly, if you are planning a creative project, the thesis work must be equivalent to completing a thesis paper. It is highly recommended that you allow two semesters in completing all thesis course work. Typically, a student would register in the Fall semester and then write and/or finalize your project in the Winter semester.



< General Thesis Timelines >

- In the 4th year (Fall semester), register for the HON 4998 course. Use the link to request override:
 - <https://forms.wayne.edu/61c1f2147e7f4/>
- Review the CANVAS material for this course.
- Identify a WSU full-time faculty to mentor you for the duration of your project. *{see FAQs for steps}*.
- Attend Thesis Info-session in the semester you registered for the course.
- Submit your thesis proposal to the Honors College. Your proposal should include a description of your thesis project and the faculty mentor you have identified.
- After approval of the thesis proposal with the approved WSU mentor, agree on scheduled meetings to plan and discuss your progress.
 - During this time - ask yourself, *“Will I be able to complete all work using 1 semester or will I need more time”?*
- If more time is needed, request the **Y** grade before the end of semester - allowing you to continue working in the 2nd semester.
- When done, submit the final draft in CANVAS and submit it to your mentor for grading.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who provides the final grade for my thesis?

- Your faculty mentor will provide the final grade.

How will it be graded?

- This course is a letter grade (*i.e.*, A, B, C...) course; P/N is not required.

Is the Thesis Info-Session required?

- Yes, it is mandatory and used for Course Participation; it can be scheduled individually if unable to attend the initial session.

What if you are also pursuing Departmental Honors?

- If pursuing Departmental Honors in addition to University Honors, then the Honors College will use the Departmental Honors thesis course in place of HON 4998 to satisfy the thesis requirement for University Honors.

For example, a student who is pursuing Psychology Honors in addition to University Honors will need to take PSY 4998 as their thesis course. PSY 4998 will satisfy the thesis requirement for both honors programs.

How can I search for a WSU faculty to determine if they are full time?

- To check faculty's title to verify if they are full time, do the following:
 - Go to www.wayne.edu.
 - Use the WSU Search tool and enter the name or access ID of the Professor.
 - Click the 'people' option.
 - Locate and click on the name of the Professor selected in the generated list of names.
 - The 'Title' of the faculty is what you need to see (*i.e.* Lecturer, Prof, Assistant or Associate).

Is there a penalty for using more than one semester for thesis completion?

- There is no penalty for using more than one semester for completion.