

HONORS COLLEGE CAPSTONE THESIS (XXX 4951)

Guidelines for Students

The Honors College Capstone Thesis is a major research or creative project prepared by an Honors student under the mentorship of a faculty member. It provides an opportunity to explore a topic of interest and importance, hopefully bringing together the student's entire academic experience. It is a substantial undertaking that requires personal initiative, various skills, and an excellent foundation in the major discipline. The Honors College Capstone Thesis is one of the ways that an Honors student may meet the Capstone requirement for graduating through the Honors College. It (or an approved replacement) is required for the Honors Student who wishes to earn recognition as a Distinguished Honors Scholar.

PREREQUISITES: To enroll in XXX 4951: Honors College Capstone Thesis, the Honors student should have earned at least sixty college credits, including at least 6 credit hours in Honors courses. In addition, the student who anticipates writing an Honors thesis should have completed the appropriate preparatory courses, including at least one methods class, either in the department of the major or in the Honors College. The research track in the Honors College includes two courses (HNRS 1500:Introduction to Research, and HNRS 3500:Honors Thesis Proposal Development) that are very helpful to the student wanting to write a thesis.

To Enroll in XXXX 4951: Honors College Capstone Thesis:

- A student who has met the requirements mentioned above and is ready to undertake a substantial research project should make an appointment with the associate dean of the Honors College to discuss the proposal. The student should bring to the meeting a brief (no more than five pages) explanation of the proposed thesis. The proposal should have a clear statement of the purpose of the proposed research, a brief overview of relevant literature, and a description of the proposed methodology.
- With the assistance of the associate dean of the Honors College, the student will choose a faculty member with whom to work. Every student enrolled in XXXX 4951: Honors College Capstone Thesis, must have a faculty mentor. Some students already know a faculty member with whom they would like to work. If the student does not have someone in mind, or if that person is not available, the associate dean of the Honors College will be glad to help the student select a faculty member and talk with him or her about the project. Only regular faculty members are eligible to serve as faculty mentors, so students should not select a member of the adjunct faculty or a graduate teaching fellow.
- The Honors associate dean will ask the student to complete the Thesis Enrollment Approval Form, which can be printed from the Honors web site at www.unt.edu/honors or picked up at the Honors College Office.
- Students must then take the form to the faculty member in the substantive department who has agreed to direct the thesis and get his or her signature, followed by signatures of the chair of the faculty member's department. The completed, signed form and a clean copy of the proposal must be returned to the associate dean of the Honors College for final approval.

The Characteristics of a Thesis or Project:

- The thesis should be a substantial scholarly paper of greater length and complexity than a term paper or research paper for a course. While the variations among disciplines are many, the expectation within the Honors College is that each student writing a thesis will deal with substantive issues in a scholarly manner.
- The Honors College assumes that every paper submitted for credit will be as correct as careful writing and editing can make it. There should be no spelling or grammar errors. All writing should conform to the highest standards of correct English usage.
- It is very important to provide citations appropriately, according to the system accepted by the discipline in which the paper is written. The student who is not well-versed in what to cite and how to cite it can find online information through the UNT Library webpage for the Honors College Capstone Thesis.
- When the faculty mentor has given final approval to the thesis, the student should contact the associate dean of the Honors College to arrange a defense. A defense is a meeting at which the student presents his or her paper and answers questions about it. The student may invite other guests as he or she wishes, but the following persons must be present: the student, the faculty mentor, and the dean or associate dean of the Honors College. Students often invite their friends, family members, or other professors to their defense, as it is a time to take pride in completing an important academic milestone.

Handing In the Thesis:

- The student should prepare three copies of a title page for the paper. It should contain the following information: title of the work; name of the student; term and year submitted. Also include four lines for signatures, including one for the student, the faculty mentor, the dean of the school or college of the major, and the dean of the Honors College. The student should collect those signatures on all three copies prior to turning in the thesis or project.
- The faculty mentor should decide the letter grade for the thesis and assign it.
- The student should submit three copies to the Honors College. The Honors College will have all three copies bound, and return one to the student, one to the mentor, and keep one in the Honors College office. If the thesis includes a CD, drawings, or other items, they should be secured in a pocket or by other means so they can be bound as part of the thesis.