

Revised Honors Thesis Guidelines

Department of Education and Wellness

Getting Started

The mentoring relationship between the Honors student and their faculty mentor is a cornerstone of successfully completing the Honors thesis. To ensure a smooth process:

- **Faculty Expectations:** The faculty mentor should understand their role, which involves supporting the Honors student for approximately two years and guiding them toward the oral defense of their thesis.
- **Alignment of Interests:** The mentor's expertise should align with the student's scholarly interests to foster a meaningful research partnership.
- **Academic Advising:** The Honors student must keep their primary academic advisor informed about their research project and timeline for completion.

Important: If the Honors student cannot accommodate HNR 4998 hours in their schedule, they must notify the department chair and their academic advisor. Together, they will identify potential solutions, such as course substitutions.

Acceptable Research and Creative Activity

The Honors thesis should address a significant question in the field of education, grounded in contemporary research and supported by a thorough literature review.

- Research approaches can be quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods.
- Creative activity is broadly defined to include curriculum design, community partnerships, leadership initiatives, and more.

Honors students collecting data must complete **CITI training**. The specific training will depend on what type of data is collected. The faculty mentor serves as the primary investigator for the IRB application. Faculty mentors should guide students through the entire process, from concept to completion.

Thesis Formats

The format of the thesis should align with the project's goals and objectives. Examples include:

1. **Research Paper:** Incorporates sections such as an introduction, literature review, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion, implications, and limitations.
2. **Journal Manuscript:** Meets the submission criteria of a specific academic journal (e.g., word count, formatting style).
3. **Creative Outputs:** May include portfolios, photography, videos, or multimedia presentations.
4. **Curriculum Design or Program Evaluation:** These formats will include a systematic process for designing a curriculum/curriculum element or for evaluating a current educational program's implementation.

The final thesis should reflect the student's learning journey and contributions to the field of education.

Dissemination

Honors students are encouraged to present their research or creative projects at local, state, and national conferences. Pursuing publication opportunities is also highly recommended.

Timeline for Completion

To stay on track, Honors students should adhere to any timeline expectations laid out by the Honors Program. Specifically:

- **Proposal Submission:** Submit the Honors thesis proposal during the fall semester of the junior year.
- **Completion Goal:** For teacher education majors, complete the thesis before the student teaching period in the spring of the senior year.