

Honors Thesis Guidelines

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health

The Honors College defines the thesis as:

“..... 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.” (honors.utah.edu/thesis/)

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders allows Honors students to use one of the following approaches in the completion of the thesis:

- Original qualitative/quantitative research
- Research that emerges from an ongoing faculty-led project
- Ancillary analysis(es) from an existing dataset
- Historical research
- Focused review of literature

Honors students are encouraged to present the thesis at the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference, the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Convention, or other suitable professional meeting. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal is also encouraged but not required. Honors students are required to present the thesis at the University of Utah Undergraduate Research Symposium, typically held in April, and should the student desire, the thesis will be part of the Marriot Library’s institutional repository, USpace, for permanent electronic storage and public availability. Students submitting the thesis for publication to a professional journal should be aware of copyright requirements of the journal and consult with a librarian to navigate this situation if they submit the document to USpace.

Honors students are required to:

- View the Honors College website (<https://honors.utah.edu/thesis/>) for general thesis requirements and timelines prior to meeting with the Honors Faculty Advisor.
- Join the Thesis Mentorship Community (Canvas page) within the Honors College.
- Complete 2-3 semesters of focused work toward the thesis in order to earn the Honors BS in Speech and Hearing Sciences.
- Commit a minimum of 5 hours per week while conducting thesis research.

Suggested Timeline of Activities for Honors Students

In the first semester in the Honors College:

- Schedule a meeting with the Honors Faculty advisor in the College of Health through the Center for Student Success (<https://health.utah.edu/student-success/advisors>)

During the first and second years in the Honors College:

- Become familiar with faculty in the Department and their research (<https://health.utah.edu/communication-sciences-disorders/faculty>). A thesis topic that interests you must fit within the scope of research conducted by a faculty member.
- Introduce yourself to faculty in the Department.
- Report to the Honors Faculty Advisor on progress toward the thesis and confirm that you are declared for the HBS or HBA degree.

During the second and third years in the Honors College:

- Identify specific areas of interest for the thesis.
- Complete human subjects training for Biomedical Researchers and Key Personnel and Good Clinical Practice training through CITI as well as any other preliminary training, reading or coursework required by the faculty member you wish to work with prior to engaging in the thesis.
- Meet with your Honors Thesis Advisor if you are having a difficult time identifying a potential thesis mentor.

During the third year in the Honors College:

- Identify your thesis mentor and the topic of your thesis.
- Determine whether your thesis will require specific approvals, such as from the Institutional Review Board, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Radiation Safety, etc.
- Complete the Thesis Proposal Form (<https://d2vxd53ymoe6ju.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/20200616185421/Honors-Thesis-Proposal-Form-2017v2.pdf>) with your mentor no later than the beginning of the semester prior to the semester you plan to graduate. Provide copies of the proposal to your Honors Thesis Advisor and the Honors College.

During the third and fourth years in the Honors College:

- Enroll in the honors thesis course (4999) in your major. Consult with the Honors Thesis Advisor if your Department does not offer 4999.
- Write your thesis, using the Thesis Formatting Template for your final document.

- Meet regularly with your thesis mentor while writing the thesis to stay on track for your planned graduation date. Most faculty will want to meet at least biweekly for at least one hour.

During the semester of graduation:

- Follow the timeline provided on the honors thesis webpage (<https://honors.utah.edu/thesis/>).
- Present your thesis at the University of Utah Undergraduate Research Symposium and/or some other professional meeting.
- Obtain signatures from your mentor, the Honors Faculty Advisor and the Chair of your Department on the face page of your thesis after receiving final approval of the document from your mentor.
- Submit your thesis to the Honors College.