HONORS GUIDELINES FOR FRENCH MAJORS

HONORS: To graduate with a designation of “Honors,” *(cum laude)* students must have an overall upper-division GPA of 3.5.

HIGH AND HIGHEST HONORS: Graduation with high or highest honors as a French major requires the writing of a senior thesis. If you have a 3.5 GPA, you are encouraged to write a thesis. You then have to enroll in FRE 4906

- to graduate with high honors *(magna cum laude)* students must:
  - have an overall upper-division GPA of 3.5,
  - have earned an “A” or “B” in at least one semester of FRE 4906.
- to graduate with highest honors *(summa cum laude)*,
  - the student’s writing and research must be excellent, of an almost publishable quality.

FRENCH UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR THESIS

*Is a senior thesis appropriate for you?*

A senior thesis is appropriate if a student is interested in learning more about a particular subject, wishes to gain research experience, and has at least a full year before graduation. For more information about whether a senior thesis is right for you, consult the UF Honors Program website *(http://www.honors.ufl.edu/research.html)*.

*Planning for your thesis*

Students should begin planning for the thesis in their junior year. You should identify and talk to your potential thesis advisor in your junior year so that you can get a jumpstart on your research before your actual two-semester sequence begins.

*Funding*

Think about applying for the University Scholar Program, which provides funds for summer research *(http://www.scholars.ufl.edu)* – deadline typically mid-February) under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

*Registering for the senior thesis*

Honors candidates must register for two full semesters of work (not including the summer terms). The relevant course number is FRE 4906. Before registering you must obtain the agreement of a full-time professor (not a TA or adjunct) to supervise you in your research. All students must then sign up at the Departmental Office, which will provide the section number for that semester. Then you must obtain the Undergraduate Coordinator's signature in order to be properly enrolled before the end of drop/add of the
semester in question. A total of four credit hours should be taken over the two semesters, which can be split as two and two, or one and three.

*Dividing up the work*

Broadly speaking, the research takes up the first semester, leaving the second semester free to devote to writing. Experience shows that students writing a thesis should strive to take a lighter-than-usual course load (ideally 12 rather than 15 hours) because of the intense nature of this stage of the operation.

Semester I should be spent in:
- developing the bibliography and becoming thoroughly familiar with the literature
- identifying some primary sources to incorporate into the research
- developing a thesis statement
- making an outline of the senior thesis, perhaps beginning to draft the thesis itself

Students are encouraged to use other faculty as resource persons, and should seek possible recommendations in this regard from their supervisor.

Semester I should be spent in:
- organizing the data into written form

In a 16-week semester, you should have a clear abstract and 10-15 page draft by week four, and a complete first draft at the end of week 11. At this stage your supervisor (remind him or her!) should notify the Undergraduate Coordinator whether he/she is going to submit your thesis for consideration for highest honors. You must have your final draft completed by week 15, i.e. two weeks before the end of classes.

*Thesis deadlines*

Final copies of the thesis are due to the faculty advisor two weeks before the end of classes to allow for approval and evaluation in time for graduation.

The graded thesis, complete with any revisions that need to be made after it is reviewed, is due on or before the last day of classes. By this date, the following tasks must be completed:

1. Students must complete the Honors Thesis submission form at [http://www.honors.ufl.edu/upperdivisionhonors.html](http://www.honors.ufl.edu/upperdivisionhonors.html). Students need to have their thesis advisor sign this form. The advisor should also notify the undergraduate coordinator with the final thesis designation (high or highest honors), if they receive either distinction after it is graded and reviewed.

2. The signed submission form should be handed to the undergraduate coordinator, in addition to a PDF copy of the thesis. The PDF should not contain the student’s UFID, contact information, or grading (only title, department, date, student’s name, and advisor’s name).
(3) Students must submit the title and abstract of their thesis electronically to the Honors Program at [http://www.honors.ufl.edu/webapps/thesis/submit](http://www.honors.ufl.edu/webapps/thesis/submit). On this site, students will also upload an electronic copy of their thesis. Acceptable formats are PDF (preferred) or Microsoft Word. This information will be included in a new searchable database which can be accessed through the following site: [http://www.honors.ufl.edu/webapps/thesis](http://www.honors.ufl.edu/webapps/thesis). The only information that is publicly available is the student’s name, thesis advisor, and thesis title. No contact information will appear, nor will the thesis be accessible.

*Format of a senior thesis*

The standard senior thesis is a research paper of approximately forty pages in length (excluding its notes and bibliography), which develops a clear and original argument. It should be of near publishable quality. In fact, some theses have in the past been revised for publication in academic journals.

In order to reach this standard, rough drafts are essential before the final version. Your supervisor is not going to rewrite your paper for you, but will provide advice on revisions. It is expected that spelling and grammar will be flawless.

The thesis is to be written in a style appropriate for the discipline, for example Chicago Manual of Style recommendations, LSA, APA. It should be consistent throughout. You may choose either footnotes or endnotes. The thesis must include a comprehensive bibliography, listing your primary and secondary sources separately.

You must number the pages, and the thesis should include in addition a title page, an abstract, and a table of contents. It is recommended that you include chapter or section headings. This is not only a guide to the reader, but will help you to see the organization of your thesis more clearly at an early stage in the writing.

**EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

The faculty advisor has the primary responsibility for evaluating the thesis and determining if high/highest honors are appropriate. S/he will appoint a second person who will serve as a reader for the thesis. The advisor will determine the thesis grade in consultation with the reader. It is possible that students may complete a thesis and not obtain high or highest honors.

**MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please see the ‘Senior Thesis’ section under the ‘Undergraduate Program’ page on the UF LLC/French website or email the French undergraduate advisor.

General information on the UF Honors program can be found here: [http://www.honors.ufl.edu/upperdivisionhonors.html](http://www.honors.ufl.edu/upperdivisionhonors.html)