

HONORS GUIDELINES FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES 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 honors (*magna cum laude*) or highest honors (*summa cum laude*) as an FLL major requires the writing of a senior thesis. Students who have a 3.5 GPA are encouraged to write a thesis. To do so, they ideally should

1. enroll in an Undergraduate Research course (4911), a Research Seminar, or an Independent/Individual Study course (4905) in their respective specialization for one semester and
2. complete a Senior/Honors Thesis course (e.g., 4906, 4915, 4935) in their respective specialization for one semester.

Alternatively, a student may enroll in two Senior/Honors Thesis courses or two Undergraduate Research courses in two consecutive semesters.

In some cases, a student may be ready to write a senior thesis although they have not enrolled in an Undergraduate Research course or an Independent/Individual Study course in a previous semester. If their advisor deems that possible, they may allow the student to proceed with their plan.

The senior thesis must be submitted and approved prior to graduation.

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, visit the following website: <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/>

PLANNING FOR YOUR THESIS

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

FUNDING

Special opportunities for undergraduate research are available, including funds, accolades, conferences, and scholarly journals that might publish your findings. Some UF examples include the University Scholars Program, the Science for Life program, and the McNair Scholars program. <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/current/research/>

REGISTERING FOR THE SENIOR THESIS

A thesis project is a two – sometimes three – semester project. In the first semester (in the case of a two-semester project), or first two semesters (in the case of a three-semester project), students are required to sign up for an Undergraduate Research course, a Research Seminar, or an Independent/Individual Study course. In their second/last semester of the project, they are required to sign up for an Honors/Senior Thesis course. Alternatively, all the courses may be Honors/Senior Thesis courses.

DIVIDING UP THE WORK

Broadly speaking, the research takes up the first semester (in the case of a two-semester project) or the first two semesters (in the case of a three-semester project). At this stage, students are expected to do the following:

- Develop the bibliography and become thoroughly familiar with the literature
- Identify primary sources to incorporate into the research
- Develop a thesis statement
- Carry out field work if this is part of their project
- Put together an outline of the senior thesis, and perhaps start working on the first draft of the thesis itself

The second/last semester of the project must be primarily devoted to writing, although follow-up research and/or reading may also be needed. 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. Students are encouraged to use other faculty as resource persons, and should seek possible recommendations in this regard from their advisor.

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, students must complete the Honors Thesis submission at <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=966329&p=7028773>. The advisor should notify the undergraduate coordinator with the final thesis designation (high or highest honors), if they receive either distinction after it is graded and reviewed.

FORMAT OF A SENIOR THESIS

The standard senior thesis is a research paper of approximately 20-40 pages in length (excluding its notes and bibliography), which develops a clear and original argument.

The thesis may be written in English or in the target language of study. It is to be written in a style appropriate for the discipline; for example; Chicago Manual of Style recommendations, LSA, APA. The thesis must include a comprehensive bibliography, listing primary and secondary sources separately. It is expected that spelling and grammar will be flawless.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The faculty advisor has the primary responsibility for evaluating the thesis and determining if high/highest honors are appropriate. S/he, in coordination with the student, will appoint a second faculty member who will serve as a reader for the thesis in its final form. 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.

To graduate with high honors (*magna cum laude*), a student must earn a B or higher in their Senior/Honors Thesis course.

To graduate with highest honors (*summa cum laude*), the student's writing and research must be excellent. The thesis must be thoroughly researched and written with few gaps or blemishes in style, structure, and argumentation; must include a representative body of relevant primary and secondary sources; and must have strong potential for making an original and important contribution to an existing body of scholarship.

In order to reach this standard, rough drafts are essential before the final version. The advisor does not rewrite the paper for the student; the advisor provides advice on revisions.

Some theses have in the past been revised for publication in academic journals, including journal of undergraduate research. Students are encouraged to aim for that. One venue to consider is the *UF Journal of Undergraduate Research* <https://journals.flvc.org/ufjur>.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/>
- <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-advising/academic-honors/#graduatingwithhonorstext>

