
Thesis | Project Requirement – Frequently Asked Questions

page 1 of 2 pages

1. What exactly is an honors thesis | project?

The thesis | project is envisioned as a research or independent study endeavor lasting a term or longer and resulting in a final product judged to be of appropriately high quality by two faculty members, who are designated the mentor and the reader of the thesis | project.

2. Does the thesis | project fulfill a course requirement within the University Honors Program?

No, it is a distinct Program requirement that must be completed in addition to your three required Level II courses if you entered the Program at Level I, or one of your five required courses if you entered the Program at Level II.

3. Who should direct my thesis | project?

You should ask two professors to work with you. The first, called the thesis | project mentor, will probably belong to your major department. The second, called the reader, ordinarily belongs to a department different from that of your thesis | project director. (Engineering majors need not select the mentor and reader from different departments.) The reader is asked to provide comment to you on an advanced draft of the thesis | project. It is hoped that the reader's participation will lend an inter-disciplinary dimension to the thesis | project.

4. Does the thesis | project demand that I enroll for a special class?

Yes. You need to enroll in HNRS 199.

5. What is HNRS 199?

HNRS 199 is an independent study course that awards a nominal two units of P/NP credit as a means for monitoring and acknowledging fulfillment of the Program thesis | project requirement. The Program Director serves as the instructor of record for HNRS 199, although your direct work is with your thesis | project mentor and reader.

6. How do I enroll for HNRS 199?

You need to obtain and complete a standard independent study form. The Program Director signs as both the instructor of record and the chairperson. The form needs be filed with the

Thesis | Project Requirement – Frequently Asked Questions

page 2 of 2 pages

Student Records Office, by the add/drop deadline for the term in you expect to complete your thesis|project, and certainly no later than the term in which you expect to graduate.

7. I have already taken a seminar/research/other course. How may I use it to satisfy my Honors Program thesis | project requirement?

You may wish to speak with your instructor about becoming your mentor for the purpose of certifying the adequacy of a paper or project you completed in the course, or, as is more commonly done, for the purpose of establishing the parameters for building upon your previous work so that it meets honors standards.

8. Do I need to tell the University Honors Program about my thesis | project plans?

Absolutely. You must submit the completed and signed *Declaration of Intent to Complete Thesis | Project Requirement* form with the independent study form to the Program Office.

9. Who tells the University Honors Program that my thesis | project has been completed?

You do. You need to return the completed *Declaration of Thesis | Project Requirement Completion* form signed by the mentor and reader, along with an abstract of the thesis | project and a disk containing the entire thesis | project, to the Program Office.

10. Are the rules governing the thesis | project requirement available to me?

Yes, although this summary provides adequate information for most students. Those who so wish may request a copy of the current *Regulations and Guidelines for the Senior Thesis | Project* from the Program Office.

11. I worry that I cannot complete the thesis | project requirement.

Many people have moments of doubt about a new undertaking. One of the thesis | project's main goals is achieved as you learn to organize, carry out, and complete a substantial endeavor of this sort. Your ability, dedication, and close consultation with your mentor and reader should be sufficient for you to reach this challenging but entirely attainable goal, from the accomplishment of which you will derive an enduring sense of satisfaction and self-confidence.