

HNRS 195: University Honors Senior Thesis

About the Honors thesis: Undertaking the writing of a thesis requires a considerable investment of time and planning, and it is the culmination of your membership in UHP. To help you manage your time, UHP has created five milestones that you will need to complete in order to pass Honors 195 and graduate with Honors. Please remember that you must also have a 3.3 GPA at the end of your time at SCU to graduate with Honors.

We understand that the pacing and development of extended projects vary from discipline to discipline and from project to project, and we are happy to work with you to adjust due dates as necessary.

A note on working with your Mentor and Reader:

Please give your mentor and reader this Thesis Overview document. It is very important that you plan to give your faculty mentor and reader sufficient time to read your work as you progress through your project. We strongly recommend scheduling regular meetings (weekly, bimonthly, or whatever works for you and your mentor) with your mentor and setting internal deadlines with them that reflect their scheduling constraints and that will allow them to give you careful commentary on your work. They are the best judges of how much time they need, so remember to touch base with them regularly on this question. Please remember that your mentor and reader are working with you on this project on top of their other responsibilities, and they are doing so out of generosity to you!

Special instructions to Engineers as you work on your Senior Design Project:

Although your primary work will be with your engineering department, you are responsible for submitting the same milestones on the same deliverables timetable as other Honors students. The exception to this expectation is that your final thesis submission due date is the one set by your department for your Senior Design Project.

A note on early graduation:

The Honors thesis is a year-long project, thus if you are intending to graduate early, you will need to begin your thesis work prior to your senior year. If you are planning to graduate one quarter early, for example, you will need to either begin work spring of your junior year or plan to work part time over the summer before your senior year on your thesis. If you are graduating two quarters early, you'll need to begin in winter, etc.

Academic Integrity: We expect everyone writing an Honors thesis to adhere to the SCU Academic Integrity pledge. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see one of the Honors team to discuss, and consult the LibGuide on Academic Integrity.

ChatGPT and other AI tools are becoming very common features of our world. There are ways that they can be useful to you as you write your thesis, however any time that you use it in any of your work, you are expected to disclose that information. The Library has developed citation guidelines for using this tool, please consult it if you plan to use it in your research. We strongly suggest you discuss the use of these tools with your mentor and reader, as disciplines vary in their use practices.

Deliverable 1: Week 10 of your junior year. Prior to this date, confer with your thesis mentor and with your reader about the topic, goals, and scope of your thesis. Then, fill out the thesis intent form. If for

whatever reason you cannot make this or any other deadline, please talk to someone on the Honors team as soon as possible.

Deliverable 2: Week 10 of Fall Quarter.

Fall quarter goals:

During fall quarter you should be researching and/or gathering the materials you need to write/build/create your thesis project. We understand that what this “gathering” means varies, as noted above, but your goal should be to be ready to move into the “writing” (whatever that looks like for your project!) phase of the project in winter quarter. For Deliverable 2, please write a reflection addressing the following questions:

- What kind of progress have you made so far this quarter? Please share some details with us in a few paragraphs.
- Have you established a regular check-in schedule with your mentor?
- Have you connected with your reader this quarter?
- Do you foresee any changes in your faculty support team? (mentor or reader?) If so, explain.
- What kinds of challenges are you facing in pursuing this project?
- How has the project evolved this quarter?
- How can we support you in getting/staying on track?
- How satisfied are you with your progress this quarter?
- How is the work going over all?

Deliverable 3: Week 10 of Winter Quarter.

Winter quarter goals:

Your goal in winter quarter should be to make substantial progress so as to enable a more flexible spring quarter. Spring is a very busy time with other kinds of challenges and big changes on the horizon! Having a complete or near complete rough draft of your project (or whatever the equivalent of a draft would be for the kind of project you are pursuing) at the end of winter quarter will serve you well. (We recognize that group projects and lab work present their own challenges in terms of timelines, etc.)

Please address the following questions in your reflection for Deliverable 3:

- What kind of progress have you made so far this quarter? We would appreciate as much detail as you’d like to share.
- How is your working relationship with your mentor going?
- Have you connected with your reader this quarter?
- How close to a completed draft of your project are you? What kinds of factors are limiting your progress if you aren’t there yet?
- What kinds of challenges did you face this quarter with the project?
- How has the project evolved this quarter?
- How can we support you in getting/staying on track?
- How satisfied are you with your progress this quarter?

Important note about Deliverable 3: At the end of winter quarter we will send a Google form survey to all mentors asking them for a status update on their mentee(s). Please encourage your thesis mentor to respond to this survey before grades are due, as this is the deadline for confirming to the Registrar that you are graduating with Honors and having it included in the Graduation Commencement Program. If we don't have confirmation that you are progressing toward completion, we will NOT forward your name to the Registrar for inclusion in the program.

The Honors Thesis Showcase will be held in week 8, details and specific timing will be announced in the Fall. Details of presentations and posters will be discussed at the senior meeting at the beginning of spring quarter.

Deliverable 4: Week 8 of Spring 2026

Poster/table request for Senior Showcase: Fill out this Google form and attach your poster or request a table for your laptop/art/engineering project for the Senior Showcase. Once you have submitted your poster to us, we will send it to media services to have it printed.

Deliverable 5: Week 10 of Spring quarter.

At the end of spring quarter, you will need to do the following to complete Honors 195:

- Submit your completed thesis to your mentor and reader for approval.
- Submit your completed thesis on Camino. We keep an archive and thus need your final version.
- Ensure that your mentor and reader email honors@scu.edu confirming that they approve your thesis.
- Fill out the Senior Thesis Completion Form.