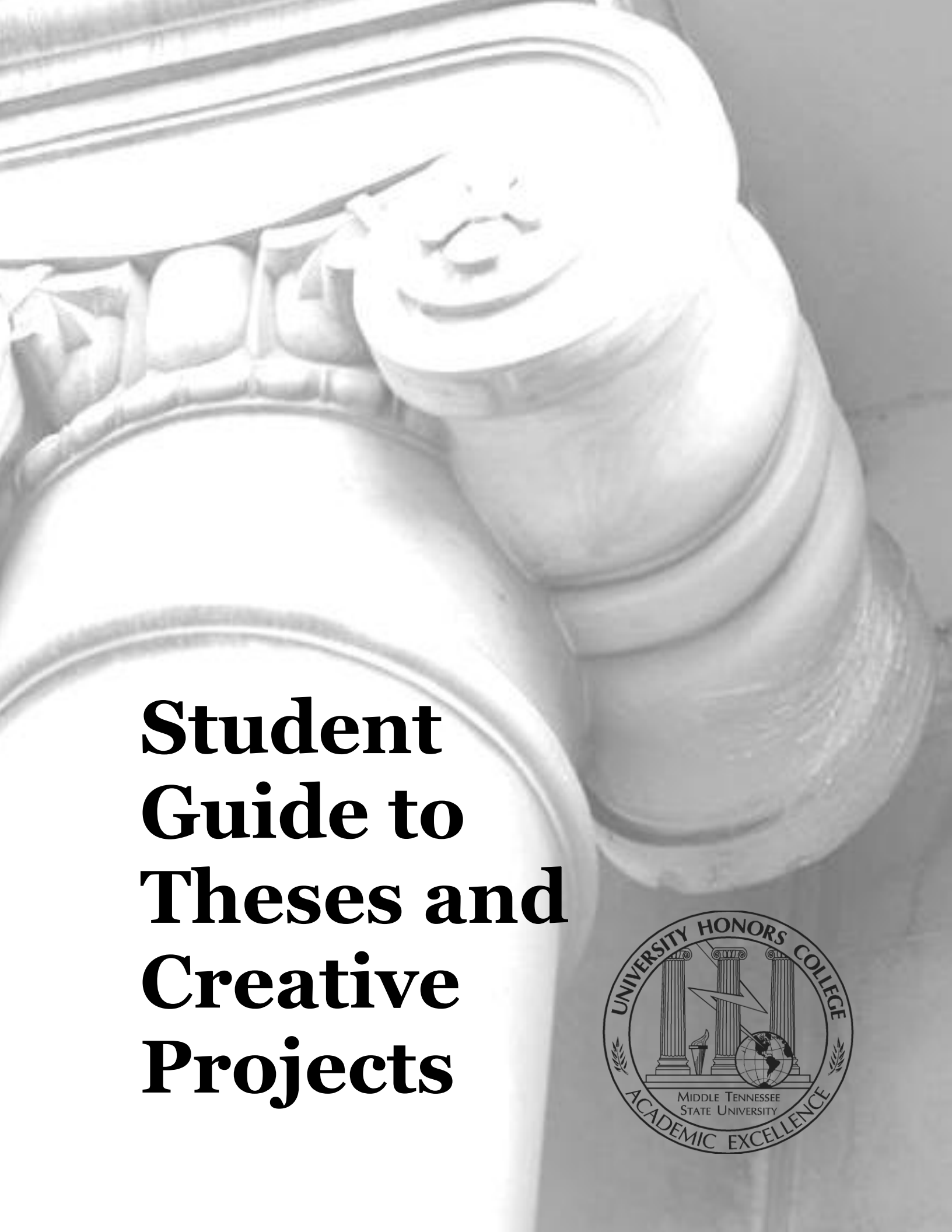


Student Guide to Theses and Creative Projects

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Contents

- Timeline and Summary of Steps - 3
- Welcome - 4
- Preparation - 4
  - Picking a Topic - 5
  - Understanding the Process - 5
  - Finding a Faculty Mentor - 6
  - Helpful References - 7
- Thesis Tutorial (UH 4900) - 7
  - Enrollment - 7
  - Proposal Stages - 8
  - Proposal Format - 10
- Thesis Project (UH 4950) - 12
  - Enrollment - 12
  - Thesis Format - 13
  - The Defense - 14
  - Archival - 15
- Financial Support - 16
- Sample Projects – 16-17
- Sample Forms - 18
  - UH 4900 Enrollment - 18
  - UH 4950 Enrollment - 19
  - Title Page - 20
  - Signature Page - 21
  - Thesis Timeline Samples – 22-26

Version: February 2011

Timeline and Summary of Steps

The following checklist depicts an ideal timeline for people who complete the proposal in the spring of their junior year and defend the thesis in the fall of their senior year. The entire project can be completed solely during the senior year, but the following path is recommended. Read on for more details. . .

Ideal Timeline

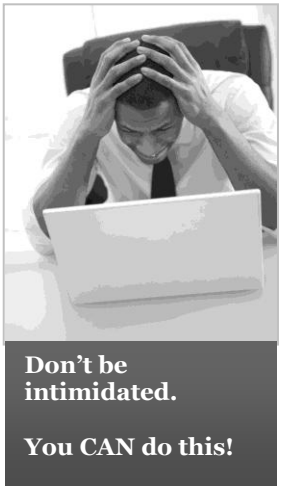
- Fall junior: Prepare (e.g. pick mentor, register, etc…)
- Spring junior: Complete Proposal (UH 4900)
- Fall senior: Complete Thesis Project (UH 4950)

Summary of Steps

1. **Preparation (1st semester of junior year)**
   - Choose topic
   - Read thesis guide and books
   - Vet thesis ideas with potential faculty mentors
   - Choose faculty mentor
   - Select tentative working title for your project
   - Complete degree audit with Honors College advisor
2. **Enrolling in UH 4900 (2nd semester junior year)**
   - Jointly determine class time with faculty mentor
   - Complete UH 4900 enrollment form and secure signatures
   - Return form to HONR 205 and get course reference number
   - Register for UH 4900 online
3. **UH 4900 Deadlines (2nd semester of junior year)**
   - Mid February: Proposal draft due in HONR 205 (electronic and paper copies)
   - End of February/Early March: Committee meeting
   - End of March: Revised proposal due in HONR 205 (electronic and paper)
4. **Enrolling in UH 4950 (1st semester of senior year)**
   - Use UH 4950 enrollment form received at proposal committee meeting or online: http://www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml
   - Complete form and secure signatures of faculty mentor and chair
   - Return form to HONR 205 and get course reference number
   - Register for UH 4950 online
5. **UH 4950 Deadlines (1st semester of senior year)**
   - Early November: Final version of thesis project ready for defense due in HONR 205 (electronic and paper)
   - Mid November: Thesis defense in HONR 203B
   - Late November: Revise thesis (if requested), print on special cotton paper, and secure original signatures
   - Submit final copies (electronic and paper) of revised and signed thesis to HONR 205 for binding and archiving

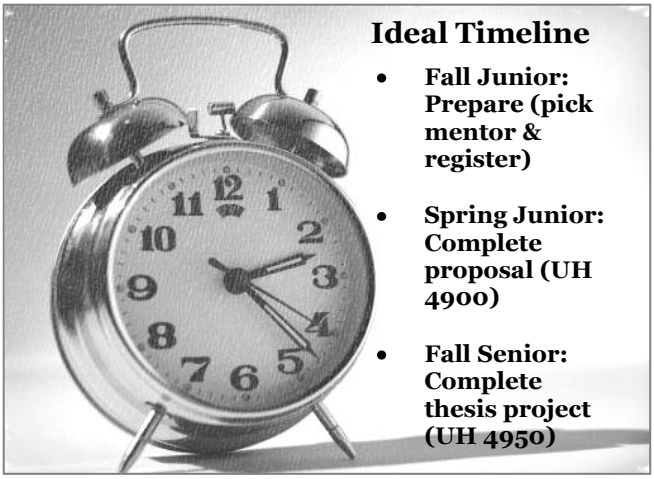
Welcome

Welcome! You are about to embark on what could be the most important aspect of your entire undergraduate career. Your thesis project is the capstone experience of the Honors College and provides you the unique opportunity to conduct scholarly research or to produce a creative project under the direct guidance of a faculty mentor. If you ask Honors College alumni, they will undoubtedly tell you how immensely valuable the experience has proven to be. The purpose of the thesis project is to provide an opportunity for you to complete a scholarly or creative work of significant proportions, to prepare you for graduate or professional school, and to allow you to gain a new intellectual perspective by becoming a contributor to the recognized knowledge in a particular field of study. While an extremely rewarding challenge, the thesis requires systematic preparation and the ability to work somewhat independently. However, the Honors College staff is always here to advise and assist you. If you're ready to meet this challenge, read on . . .



Preparation

Completion of your thesis project will take at least two semesters (UH 4900 & UH 4950); while some students complete this during their senior year, we suggest starting a semester early in the spring of your junior year. Whenever you decide to begin, you should take some preliminary steps before enrolling in the tutorial (UH 4900). Ideally, you should complete these steps by the fall of your junior year (and at the latest, spring of your junior year).



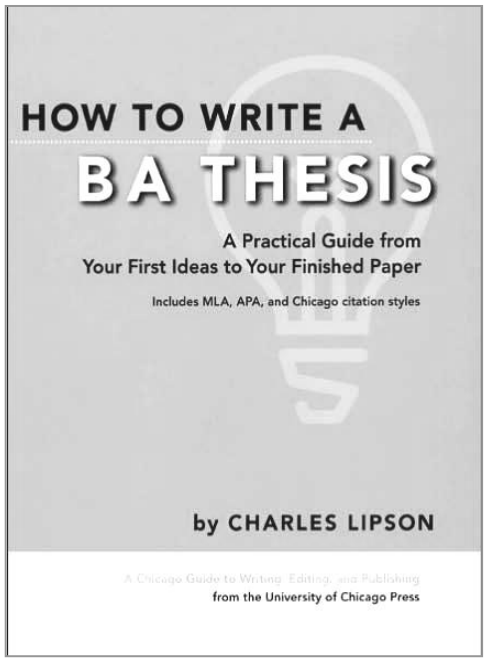
Also, we highly encourage you to study abroad at some point during your career at MTSU. While in rare cases you can integrate study abroad with your thesis, it is best to plan accordingly and complete study abroad before embarking on the thesis process. Your preparation will be optimized if you are on campus to complete many of these steps in person, so think ahead when planning for study abroad and the thesis.

Picking a Topic

First, you need to pick a thesis topic. Don't worry, you're not expected to begin this process knowing exactly what you're going to explore or what you hope to discover, but you do need to narrow the topic. At this stage, you are just trying to figure out which area to concentrate on before delving deeply into the literature. Your thesis topic does not necessarily have to emanate from your major, but should represent an academic area in which you have advanced preparation. *Above all, you must choose a topic about which you are passionate*. You will spend a year of advanced study in this field, so choose a topic that stokes your curiosity and enthusiasm. Vet your ideas with family, friends, colleagues, and professors. Also, remember that the thesis project can be a traditional written work or a creative project (with supplemental written description). You will further refine your topic once you have found a faculty mentor.

Understanding the Process

Next, you should familiarize yourself with the thesis process (congratulations, you are already doing that since you are reading this!). You might want to begin by perusing previous Honors theses. An archive of theses is kept both in the James E. Walker Library and in the Thesis Defense Room in the Martin Honors Building (HONR 203B); a list of sample theses is also included on page 16-17. Additionally, you should review some books on how to write an undergraduate thesis. For example, *How to Write a Thesis* (Teitlebaum, 2003), *How to Write a Better Thesis* (Evans & Gruba, 2002), and *How to Write a BA Thesis* (Lipson, 2005) are all very helpful (see *Helpful References* on page 7). Lipson's book, which is available in the Honors College Library, is the most thorough of the three, demystifying the ambiguity of the thesis process and providing simple solutions to the most common pitfalls.



Finding a Faculty Mentor

Next, and perhaps most critically, you need to identify a faculty mentor to advise you throughout the thesis process. Your faculty mentor does not have to be an Honors faculty member, but must be a **full time tenured (or tenure-track) professor** at MTSU. Choosing the right advisor is an important step. You might begin by approaching several professors and soliciting their feedback about your thesis topic. At this stage, you aren't yet asking them to be your mentor. You are just having a professional conversation to solicit their advice about a potential scholarly project. Many students choose to approach professors that they already know or have already had in one or more of their courses (but you are not limited to this). You may also stop by the Honors office (HONOR 205), library (HONR 203B), or Advisor's office (227) to see which professors have already mentored theses. Also, it is worth noting here, that completing honors credit with the Honors Contract is a good way to get to know a professor and adjust to the unique and sometimes ambiguous demands of independent study.

After you have vetted your research ideas with one or more professors, you need to decide whom to ask to be your mentor. You obviously want to choose a professor whose specialty relates to your interest, but also someone interested in and supportive of your ideas. You will be working very closely with this person for about a year, so it is crucial to find a faculty mentor with whom you have good rapport. In addition, you should not choose someone who is going to be out of the country, on sabbatical, or retiring within the next year. You want to choose someone to whom you will have ready access. In making your decision, examine the publications of the prospective advisor including previous Honors theses they have mentored. Ideally, you want to work with someone who will meet regularly with you. When you do finally decide which professor you would like to ask, remember that he or she will be volunteering time to guide you through this process. Finally, work

with them to select a tentative title for your work (don't worry. . . this is just a general working title to which you are not bound).

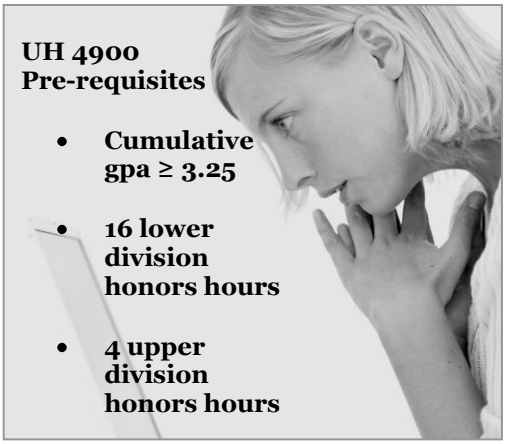
Once you have made arrangements for a faculty mentor to guide you through the thesis process, you should meet with the Honors College Advisor (HONR 227, 898-5464, Lclippar@mtsu.edu). In addition to sharing your research ideas with the Honors Advisor, you should complete an audit of all of your Honors coursework.

Helpful References

Evans, D., & Gruba, P. (2002). *How to Write a Better Thesis* (2nd Ed.). Melbourne University Press: Carlton, Australia.

Lipson, C. (2005). *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from Your First Ideas to Your Finished Paper*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago, IL.

Teitlebaum, H. (2003). *How to Write a Thesis* (5th Ed.). Arco: Lawrenceville, NJ.



Thesis Tutorial (UH 4900)

The Honors Thesis Tutorial, a one-credit hour pass/fail course (UH 4900), is designed to guide you towards the completion of your thesis proposal. This course also provides you a transition from the comfortable confines of traditional course work to the rigor, ambiguity, and excitement of independent research. Ideally, you should register for UH 4900 the second semester of your junior year (after completing the preparatory steps outlined above). The tutorial's objectives include narrowing the topic, formulating a thesis question, collecting a working bibliography, writing the proposal, and submitting it to your thesis committee for approval.

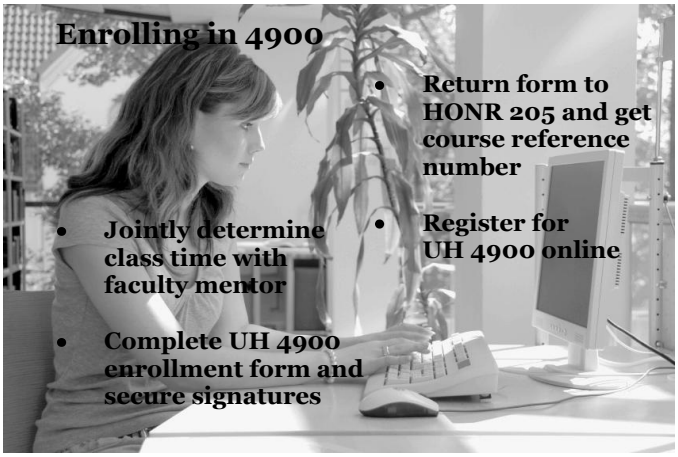
Enrollment

To enroll in UH 4900, you must have completed 16 hours of lower-division Honors courses and four hours of upper-division Honors courses, as well as maintained a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additionally, the thesis project must be in a field reflecting your academic preparation, but does not have to be in your major. Before registering for UH 4900, you should choose a time from the

UH 4900 and UH 4950 Times
MWF 800 – 855
MWF 910 – 1005
MWF 1020 – 1115
MWF 1130 – 1225 MWF 1240 – 135 MWF150 – 245
MW 1240 – 205
MW 1420 – 345
TR 800 – 925
TR 940 – 1105
TR 1120 – 1245
TR 1300 – 225
TR 1440 – 405

table on the left in conjunction with your advisor. While you are encouraged to meet whenever you like and as often as you like, you should choose a time when you are both free. Ideally, you will both use this and other times to meet regularly, but ***the Honors College will use this time to schedule your committee meeting***, so choose wisely.

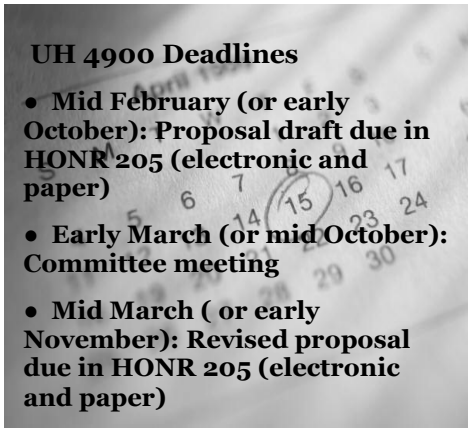
Once you have selected a convenient meeting schedule, obtain the UH 4900 enrollment form online at: http://www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms. shtml. This form must be completed and then be signed by you, your faculty mentor, and the Honors College Advisor and returned to the Honors office (HONR 205). Once completed and returned, you will then be assigned a course reference number that you will use to officially register for UH 4900 on PipelineMT. At the latest, you should complete the enrollment process during the first two weeks of the semester in which you plan to begin UH 4900. Also note that the enrollment form will list important deadlines for the next semester, so mark your calendar accordingly.



Remember that if you have questions at any point during this process, we encourage you to seek assistance from the Honors College staff. We are here to help. Throughout the thesis process, you need to remain proactive and take responsibility for every aspect of the project.

Proposal Stages

Congratulations on navigating the enrollment process for UH 4900! Once this is completed, the Honors College will form a thesis advisory committee on your behalf. The committee will consist of your faculty advisor, a faculty representative from the Honors Council, and either the Dean or Associate Dean of the Honors College.

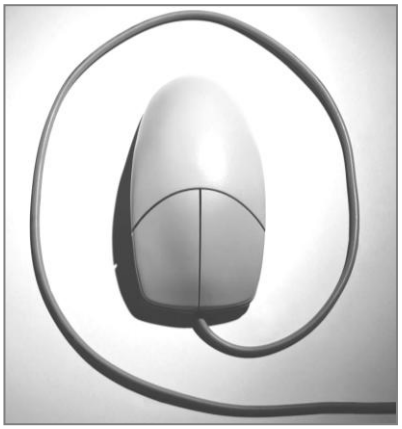


Thus, your goal in UH 4900 is to submit a proposal that will pass your committee's review. Your committee is dedicated to helping you meet this goal and will therefore meet with you once during the semester to review your work and

provide feedback. The time of this meeting will be the same time that you and your advisor originally agreed to when you registered for UH 4900. The deadline for submitting the first draft of your thesis proposal (electronic and paper copies) is usually mid-February in the spring or early October in the fall depending on when you register for UH 4900. The actual due dates are posted each semester and will be made known to you at time of registration. The Honors College will then arrange for the meeting of you and your committee about a week or two after this deadline. **Please note that this draft should be, to your eyes, in a finished state.** You will continue to revise it based on your research, conversations with your advisor, and feedback from your committee, but strive to submit the best possible proposal early in the semester.

Once you have met with your committee, you will integrate their feedback with any input from your faculty advisor and create a revised proposal that you will then resubmit by mid-March or early November. This revised final proposal, due in the Honors office, should again be submitted both electronically and on paper. This final proposal will be given to your Honors administrative committee member for their final review and approval.

Please check your MTSU email regularly as the Honors College staff will use this as the primary means of communicating with you throughout the semester. You should submit copies of the proposal, both electronic and paper, to HONR 205.



It is crucial that you regularly meet with your faculty mentor throughout the semester, even after the final proposal has been submitted. Most faculty members expect you to establish the times of the meetings and to come to the meetings prepared. Unlike a traditional class, the professor will not necessarily lead the discussion, and you should not assume that he or she will pick up the slack if you are unprepared. A strategy that most successful students use is to establish a bibliography early in the semester and then systematically to read as much as possible, using meetings to discuss those readings and successive versions of the proposal.

Thus, not only are you responsible for scheduling those meetings, finding the references, providing them to the faculty member, building your annotated bibliography, but also driving the conversation, allowing the faculty member to weigh in with his or her expertise and to provide guidance as needed. Your faculty mentor might have a slightly different approach, but you must take the final responsibility for your own scholarly work. The thesis project is meant to prepare you for advanced scholarly work and as such, you are expected to work at an advanced level. This does not mean that you have to be an expert who knows all the answers, but rather that you are diligent and curious and continuously ask appropriate questions.

Proposal Format

While every person, every committee, and thus every proposal is unique, there are some common traits of successful proposals of which you should be aware. Proposals should be 5-7 pages long (not including title page, references, or appendices). Thus, they must be clear, scholarly, and succinct. Remember that your Honors Council representative is from a diverse group of faculty. Your proposal needs to clearly communicate your scholarly plan to people who very well may be unfamiliar with the esoteric jargon of your discipline. While your proposal should follow some of the formatting guidelines of your discipline (particularly citations), the Honors College requests that proposals follow a fairly consistent format outlined in the table below.

Your proposal should be divided into sections addressing various aspects of the work (e.g. introduction, thesis statement, method, etc. . . see table on next page). The first section, the introduction, should contain a review of pertinent literature (properly cite your sources). In this section, you should demonstrate a clear understanding of the major issues and theories related to the topic. The next section, which is really just a logical extension of the literature review, is the statement of your thesis or creative project question. Remember that your work, while grounded in the existing framework of the discipline, should broach an original, creative question. *The two most common proposal problems are a vague thesis statement (it should be clear and succinct), and a missing timeline.* **See pages 22-26 for timeline samples.**

Required Elements of Proposal
Formatting
Proposal should be typed, double-spaced, using 12 point font, and paginated with one inch margins
The Proposal should be 5-7 pages in length, not including title, references, or appendices—pages must be numbered
Sections
Title Page
Introduction (background, literature review, definition of terms, theory, rationale and summary)
Thesis statement and hypothesis or expected outcomes (based on literature review)
Methodology (resources, apparatus, procedure, participants, **timeline**) or creative project description (resources, medium, procedure, **timeline**)
References
Appendices (photos, survey instruments, IRB/IACUC approval letter, etc.)

The next section should then describe how you intend to investigate the question; you should explain to the readers the exact steps you intend to take to answer your thesis question or express your creative aim. The more organized, specific, and yet succinct your proposal is, the more likely it is to pass the review by your committee. Please note that if you intend to use human participants or animal subjects in your research, the proposal must be approved by either the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB, humans) or Institutional Animal Use and Care and Committee (IACUC, animals).

A high level of quality in performance and thoroughness of execution is expected in all aspects of the Honors thesis/creative project. It should be carefully planned and completed with attention to detail. It must be presented in an appropriate, professional format. *Any questions concerning the format of a particular project should be raised with the thesis committee when the original proposal is submitted in order to avoid misunderstandings at the time of completion*. The style should conform to the style manual most appropriate to the student's discipline, but should also attempt to appeal to the diversity of the committee members. If the student's discipline specifies no style manual, the committee may decide upon an appropriate style. Again, if you have

any questions about formatting, consult with your faculty mentor, a member of your committee, and/or a member of the Honors College staff.

Theses and creative projects are expected to reflect effort that is at least equivalent to the effort a student would make for a three-hour, upper-division course (at least 9-12 hours/week). Therefore, credit earned for the thesis or creative project (UH 4950) amounts to three semester hours.

Please remember that your committee will not meet again until you defend your thesis in the subsequent semester, so it is imperative that you continue meeting regularly with your advisor to ensure the successful completion of your work.

The Honors Thesis Project (UH 4950)

Enrollment

Once your thesis proposal revisions are complete and approved by your Honors College administrative committee member, you are eligible for Honors Independent Research (UH 4950; three (3) credit hours) in the subsequent semester. The enrollment process for UH 4950 is very similar to that of UH 4900. The form may be found under Forms at http://www.mtsu.edu/honors/Forms.shtml. Complete the form and have your faculty advisor sign it. Next, you need to secure the signature of your advisor's department chair. The chairperson may not request a copy of your proposal, but you should assume he or she will and offer to provide them with a copy before requesting their signature. Also, provide them ample time to review the work before expecting their signature.

The semester *after* your proposal is approved, you must complete the UH 4950 enrollment form. The Honors College will assign a course reference number based upon which section you and your project advisor plan to meet. Once obtained, you may register for UH 4950 on PipelineMT. You will only officially meet with your committee once at the end of the semester to defend your thesis. The Honors College will schedule your defense based solely on the time slot you have chosen. You are highly encouraged to continue meeting regularly (once or

twice a week) with your advisor. Also, you and your advisor will be required to complete a "Mid-Term Report" on your progress.

Enrolling in UH 4950

Obtain UH 4950 enrollment form at proposal committee meeting (or online).

Choose meeting times and complete the form. Then secure signatures of faculty mentor and their chair the following semester.

Return form to HONR 205 and get course reference number.

Register for UH 4950 online.

Remember that you are encouraged to enter this phase of thesis production during the first semester of your senior year so you have an additional semester to finish the project in the event that some extenuating circumstance delays completion of the project. Additionally, this approach provides you with time during the previous summer to augment your bibliography.

Some students successfully complete the proposal on time, but lag in the completion of the actual thesis project because they have trouble adjusting to the increasingly independent nature of UH 4950. It bears repeating that you must maintain your momentum and continue systematically to complete aspects of the thesis project while simultaneously building your bibliography and regularly meeting with your advisor. Your committee, which serves as an advisory group of readers, only meets with you once to review your proposal (before the final defense). Thus, it is your duty in conjunction with your faculty mentor to provide a clear, error free final draft of the thesis for the defense.

Thesis Format

The final version of your thesis (or the written component of your creative project) should more strictly adhere to the professional formatting guidelines appropriate for your discipline (this is especially helpful if you plan to submit your work for publication in your field). Any questions about formatting should be directed towards your mentor and members of your committee. Nonetheless, the Honors College does require a few additional formatting steps for the later purpose of binding the work (see the table to the right and also see the *Archival* section on page 16). Specifically, you should use a **1.5** inch left margin, include two blank sheets at the beginning and end of the thesis,

Required Elements of Thesis
Formatting
1.5 inch left margin (for binding)
Cotton paper (final archive version only)
Sections
Two blank sheets (archived version only)
Title Page (see page 20)
Signature/Approval page (see page 21)
Acknowledgments (optional)
Table of Contents (optional)
Abstract or Summary
Body of paper
List of tables (if applicable)
List of figures (if applicable)
List of appendices (if applicable)
Appendices
References
Two blank sheets (archived version only)

include an abstract or summary of the work, and include a signature page. If you are doing a creative work, you still must include a written description of the project. However, that work should be augmented with pictures, a CD, a DVD, or some other medium that can be included in the final bound thesis (and which adequately conveys the final work).

The final, properly formatted version of your thesis should be submitted about one month before the end of the semester. Typically, this deadline is the end of October in the fall or the end of March in the spring (you will be given the exact deadline when you register). On this date, you are required to submit the final version of your thesis project to HONR 205 (paper copy). The Honors College staff will then arrange a defense, which will take place in the Thesis Defense Room of the Honors College's Martinelli Library (203B; where the thesis archive is located). The defense will take place approximately a week or two after you submit the final work. **Be sure to check your MTSU email regularly.**

The Defense

The term thesis defense is almost a misnomer; while you need to be extremely well prepared for the event, the experience is not like a quiz, but rather like a high-level conversation between colleagues. The format of defenses varies; consult with your mentor and committee on this (also consult with the Honors College staff if you have any audio/visual needs). However, be prepared to converse and address questions from the committee for approximately one hour. At the end of the hour, you will temporarily retire to the main Honors office (HONR 205) while your committee deliberates your grade. After the deliberation, you will be asked to return to the Library where the committee will share their evaluation and any requested revisions with you. If you pass, we will peal the Honors College bell tower will in your honor! Many students invite friends and family to wait in or around the building to hear the tolling of the bells. Following the bell ringing ceremony, a small celebration will take place and pictures will be taken.

On rare occasions, students find that they need more than one semester to complete the thesis. You should understand that Honors Independent Research (UH 4950) is treated as a course in that credit is awarded and a letter grade is given. If for unforeseeable reasons you cannot complete UH 4950 on schedule,

you must drop or withdraw from the course to avoid getting a failing grade (F). However, a temporary grade of incomplete (I) may be given if you are not graduating at the end of the semester and intend to complete the project during the following semester.

Archival

Once you complete the defense and any requested changes, you need to submit a final signed set of two or more copies to HONR 205 for archival purposes. **These will be due the last day of classes each semester.** One bound copy will be kept in the Honors College Library, and one will be kept in the James E. Walker Library. Many students opt to buy additional copies for themselves and for their advisor (a nice token of appreciation). The first two copies are paid for by the Honors College whereas additional copies cost $20 each ($25 each for more than two).

Again, the final revised version should be tailored to the formatting style set forth by your discipline's professional organization and also the requests of your thesis committee. Additionally, as mentioned above, the Honors College has a few additional formatting rules for binding purposes. In addition to the wider margins, blank pages, and signature page, the final archived version of the thesis should be printed on 20 lb., 100% cotton paper (available free from the Honors main office—up to 500 sheets). Each of the final versions must have the original signatures of your advisor, the advisor's department chair, the representative from the Honors Council, and the Dean or Associate Dean of the Honors College. Thus, you will need to allow time to print the revised thesis, have it approved by your advisor and then secure signatures from all parties *before* the deadline date. As before, your department chair may not read the final thesis, but you should assume he or she will and give him or her time to read it before gathering their signature. As before, you will also be asked to submit an electronic version on a CD provided by the Honors College. Again, if completing a creative work, you need to augment your written description with evidence of the project. For example, if completing a film, submit multiple copies of the film on DVD for inclusion with your written thesis.

UH 4950 Deadlines

- **Early November (or early April): Final Thesis Due in HONR 205**
- **Mid November (or mid April): Thesis Defense in HONR 203B**
- **Late November (or late April): Revise thesis (if requested), print, and secure original signatures**
- **Submit final copies of revised and signed thesis to HONR 205 for binding**

Finally, you may be asked to give a public presentation of your thesis or creative project to other Honors students and faculty on campus. The College generally invites approximately four students to present in the Honors Lecture Series (UH 3000) at the end of the semester.

Financial Support

Two major sources of research funding are made available to qualified MTSU students through the College of Graduate Studies (www.mtsu.edu/graduate). The Undergraduate Research Center (www.mtsu.edu/urc) offers a series of awards ranging from $700-$3,250. The McNair program (www.mtsu.edu/mcnair), which promotes low-income, first-generation, and minority students, provides $2,800. Additionally, the Honors College administers several scholarships (see www.mtsu.edu/honors). Some funding is also available to support travel to professional conferences.

Sample Projects

Here is a short list of some recent theses and creative projects:

Barnes, T. (2009). *Computational Analysis of the Intramolecular Interactions of Electronegative Atoms*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Preston MacDougall.

Emerson, S. (2010). *Learning New Rhythms: The Relationship between Music Aptitude and Second Language Proficiency*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Cyrille Magne.

Little, E. (2007). *Medieval Catalonia: An Expansionist State in a Competitive Arena*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Louis Haas.

McCoy, S. (2010). *The Lesbian in the Room: Breaking the Silence of Lesbian Desire in Radclyffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness" and Vita Sackville-West's "All Passion Spent"*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Alfred Lutz.

Murphy, S. (2009). *A Label-Free Method for Detection and Differentiation of Bacillus spp Endospores*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Stephen Wright.

Powell, E. (2009). *The Zoography of Plato and Descartes: Toward an Archaeology of Animality*. Thesis under the guidance of Drs. Ron Bombardi and Jack Purcell.

Ronner, A. (2009). *Speech and Dialogue in Charles Dicken's Novels: Antithesis Characters versus Imaginative Characters*. Thesis under the guidance of Dr. Philip Phillips.

Alexander, J. (2006). *#39963*. Documentary film under the guidance of Dr. Will Brantley.

Duncan, A. (2008). *The Multi-Faceted Flute: A Creative Project Exploring Recording Techniques for Solo Flute and the Flute Choir*. Creative project under the guidance of Dr. Deanna Little.

Parris, J. (2007). "*You Are Not Special*". Film under the guidance of Dr. Robert Pondillo.

Need to look up a thesis for reference or format?

The Honors College thesis archives are maintained in the Thesis Defense Room (HONR 203B) and in Special Collections in the James E. Walker Library.

The Walker Library treats the theses like books in the library so if you enter "Honors" as a keyword search in the catalog (which is now Voyager), and limit the search to Special Collections this will bring up a list of Honors theses (along with a handful of other non-Honors titles). A list of theses can also be retrieved by entering the series title, "Honors Program Independent Study" as a title search. The same list of theses can be retrieved using the search box on the Special Collections web page (http://library.mtsu.edu/specialcollections/collections.php). Simply enter "Honors" as a keyword search.

Some students might not be aware that theses, since they are housed in Special Collections, do not circulate and need to be used in their space. Of course, the library staff will be happy to help people find theses so students can always come directly to Special Collections for assistance. The staff at the Reference Desk can also help.

Go Beyond the Thesis. Get your work published!

Check out our Undergraduate Research Journal Web page at http://frank.mtsu.edu/~hcevents/journals. html.
It lists a variety of print and e-journals, medical journals, law journals, math journals, journals of original creative work, psychology journals, and anthropology journals.