



HONORS THESIS

Health, Society & Policy

What is an Honors Thesis in HSP?

The Honors Thesis is a significant undergraduate research project completed under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Its purpose is to further develop your intellectual, professional and personal growth as a member of the Honors College.

HSP is an interdisciplinary major, so HSP Honors Thesis projects may take different forms depending on the student's interests, disciplinary affiliations, and career goals. HSP students have done laboratory experiments, analyses of observational data, historical research, policy analyses, program creation, and artistic creations to satisfy the HSP Honors Thesis requirement. Regardless of topic and methodology chosen, an HSP thesis always demonstrates expertise in a field, command of relevant scholarship, and an effort to contribute to that scholarship.

Why should I do an Honors Thesis in HSP?

Completing the honors thesis project gives you the opportunity to learn more about a topic you are passionate about, gain methodological and writing skills that give you an edge in employment or graduate school decisions, and work closely with faculty members who may provide intellectual and professional guidance. Plus, it allows you to graduate with Honors from the University of Utah. Many HSP Honors students apply for the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, a fellowship that pays students to do faculty-mentored research for up-to two semesters. If you spend two semesters working with a faculty mentor and take advantage of opportunities to present and publish your research, you can get the Undergraduate Research Scholar designation on your diploma.

When should I do my Honors Thesis in HSP?

Many HSP students complete the Honors Thesis project during their senior year, but are welcome to do it any time before graduation. Most HSP students spend more than a single semester working on their Honors Thesis project. The final semester (the one where students are typically enrolled in HSP 4999) is often used to write and revise the final thesis document, while previous semesters are used to do the research and work with a faculty mentor in developing and implementing the project.

How do I do an Honors Thesis in HSP?

The thesis process will vary across students, but the general steps include:

- Schedule an appointment with HSP Honors Faculty Advisor to discuss and brainstorm potential topics and faculty mentors for your Honors Thesis project. It is recommended that you do this a couple of semesters before intended graduation.
- Find a faculty mentor who will supervise your Honors Thesis project. HSP does not have its own faculty, so faculty mentors can be from any department on campus.
- Prepare and submit a Thesis Proposal form to the Honors College.
- Enroll in HSP 4999. This is a 3-credit hour independent study course with no set meeting times that gives you time to do the Honors Thesis project.
- Conduct the Honors Thesis project under direction of your faculty mentor.
- Submit completed thesis document to Honors College, once approved by your faculty mentor and the HSP Honors Faculty Advisor

Note: If you are a double major, have an early conversation with the Honors Faculty Advisors from each major and your faculty mentor about whether your project can satisfy requirements of both majors.

What does an Honors Thesis in HSP look like?

A completed thesis is a well-written, polished document that has been revised a number of times. The document will look different based on topic and methodology:

- About 30 pages, double space. (This is an average; length varies)
- Includes a title page, an abstract, and table of contents page.
- Uses Honors College template for formatting.
- Adopts formal bibliographic reference style. (Your choice; APA recommended)

Reviewing completed theses is a great way to see the format and also shows the diversity of projects done by HSP students. The Marriott Library Institutional Repository archives completed and approved theses, click here for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Honors College Website

<https://honors.utah.edu/thesis/>

Honors College Thesis Mentor

virginia.solomon@honors.utah.edu

Honors Faculty Advisor for HSP

rebecca.utz@utah.edu