

HONORS COLLEGE

THESIS PROPOSAL FORM

The process of writing a thesis is the culmination of the Honors curriculum and should be one of the most rewarding—yet challenging—experiences of your education at Sam Houston State University. During your last two semesters of study, you will enroll in two courses, HONR 4398: Thesis I and HONR 4399: Thesis II. In these courses you will work in close consultation with a faculty member on a major research project or creative endeavor.

The thesis topic is usually related to the student's major or minor, but it may be in any discipline. In fact, the Honors College encourages interdisciplinary study. If you choose to undertake an interdisciplinary thesis, you may work with two faculty advisors. In any case, you must meet with Dr. Kimberly Bell, Dean of the Honors College, the semester before you begin the thesis project for approval: e-mail honors@shsu.edu to set up an appointment or attend one of her Thesis Information Sessions, held every semester.

Information:

Student Name: _____ SAM ID: _____ E-mail: _____

Proposed Thesis Title: _____

Thesis Advisor(s): _____ Department: _____ Email: _____

Expected graduation date: Spring Fall Summer 20_____

Is this thesis in conjunction with the McNair Thesis Program? Yes No

If so, when did you complete MCNR 4301: Research course? Spring Fall Summer 20_____

Provide the name of your McNair Thesis Director and his or her email address (if different from above):

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Proposal: Attach a 4-5 page thesis proposal that provides the following information:

1. **Topic:** in detail, describe the topic of your thesis. What is your argument or research problem? Describe your project in terms that an educated but non-specialist audience can understand.
2. **Method:** how will you conduct your research? (e.g. experiment, survey, case study, creative endeavor).
3. **Expected Outcome:** what result(s) do you expect to achieve from this project?
4. **Reflection:** why did you decide on this particular topic? Why have you chosen this particular professor to work with you on this project? How will this project serve as a capstone for your undergraduate career as an Honors student?
5. **Communication:** what are your expectations about meeting with your advisor, and what are your advisor's expectations of you? State clearly how often you plan to meet.
6. **Timeline:** what is your expected research timeline? What will you accomplish in HONR 4398 and in HONR 4399? You should include deadlines for outlines, literature reviews, rough drafts, etc.
7. **Presentation:** where will you present your research? (e.g. URS or conference in your discipline).

Honors Thesis Expectations and Requirements: Students are expected to adhere to all honors thesis deadlines and to the following:

1. You are expected to maintain regular contact with your thesis advisor; that is, you are responsible for scheduling regular meetings and for keeping your appointments.
2. You are required to present your research at the URS or other professional conference or to submit a portion of the thesis to a scholarly journal for publication. In the rare instance where a student is not able to present or submit his or her work, the student is expected to arrange to do an oral presentation for the Honors College deans and thesis advisor.
3. Each honors student writing a thesis will be assigned to a library liaison, who will assist the student in all aspects of research (formulating arguments, finding sources, identifying scholarly resources and databanks, etc). Students are required to meet with the library liaison at least once per semester.
4. You are required to use the honors thesis template when formatting the thesis (go to <https://www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/documents-and-forms/> to save the form).
5. You are expected to submit the thesis in two hard copies to the Honors College Office by the deadline (noted below); you are also required to upload it to Scholarly Works @ SHSU (<https://shsu-etd.tdl.org/>) unless you specifically request an embargo (of one year) or opt out of it in writing.

Nota bene: This thesis proposal form is a contract, a professional obligation you are making to your professor, the Honors College, and yourself. If you cannot complete the honors thesis or fulfill the honors thesis requirements, you must contact your thesis advisor and honors dean with a detailed explanation for breaking your contract. In the event that you do not complete and submit the thesis, the IP grades for HONR 4398 and HONR 4399 will remain on your transcript.

Thesis Proposal Deadline: This Thesis Proposal Form (with all required signatures), along with the thesis proposal, must be submitted to the Honors College by the twelfth day of class during the semester in which you are enrolled in HONR 4398. If you are expanding your McNair thesis, the proposal form is due immediately.

Thesis Deadline: The deadline to submit the thesis is the last day of class prior to commencement. You must submit the completed the Honors thesis in two hard copies to the Honors College, along with the signed Thesis Approval and Binding Forms. You must also upload the completed thesis to Scholarly Works @ SHSU (<https://shsu-etd.tdl.org/>).

All thesis documents can be found at <https://www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/documents-and-forms/>

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thesis Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Department Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Honors College Dean Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Effective Fall 2017