



HONORS THESIS & CAPSTONE

OVERVIEW

Honors students are expected to undertake a capstone project in their major area during their junior or senior year. The thesis/capstone consists of an intensive, active learning experience that requires extensive research for a final product, which is a written work or substantive product relevant to the student's major. The thesis/capstone demonstrates what the student has learned in her/his undergraduate program of study by showcasing areas of special interest and demonstrating creative or technical skills they have developed. An Honors thesis/capstone is based on students' independent research and should make original contributions to their field of study. Many majors at SLU require a senior thesis or capstone, and this project may count for the Honors thesis/capstone.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS AN HONORS THESIS/CAPSTONE?

Honors Theses/Capstone Projects vary by discipline but often are similar to a manuscript. In the humanities, theses usually are between 30-50 pages long. In the social sciences, the manuscripts are shorter, depending on the qualitative or quantitative research. For the hard sciences, the manuscript may be shorter still, often taking the form of a sophisticated laboratory report. For students in the creative disciplines, theses may take the form of a performance, a body of creative work, or a manuscript. Faculty in the student's major area may determine projects that are appropriate for an Honors thesis/capstone.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- The Honors thesis/capstone must be in the student's major area.
- The project must be sponsored by a faculty member in the appropriate discipline that will oversee the student's progress during the completion of the project.
- Students must enroll in Honors 490 (0 SLU credit hours, 3 Honors hours) the semester they intend to complete the Honors thesis/capstone requirement. Students should enroll in this course during the registration period corresponding to their classification.
- Students whose preparation will last longer than a semester do not need to register for the Honors thesis/capstone (HR 490) while their technical/field work is being completed.
- Students must turn in a completed thesis/capstone form detailing their project with the signature of their faculty sponsor to the Honors Program by November 15 for projects beginning in the spring semester and April 15 for projects beginning in the fall semester.
- The Honors Program will review each form and may suggest changes or request further details about each project. Once approved, students and their sponsors will receive an email confirming the project. Additional instructions or guidelines will be sent via email if necessary.
- Final projects must be received or presented by the first day of finals of the semester for which students are enrolled to receive Honors credit.

HONORS THESIS/CAPSTONE PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Students should complete each of these steps at least one semester before starting their Honors thesis/capstone. Students are encouraged to begin making plans for the Honors thesis/capstone project as early as possible to ensure the proper support and resources are available.

- Generate ideas for an Honors thesis/capstone project relevant to your major course of study.
- Research whether or not your major has a thesis or capstone requirement. The thesis or capstone may also count as your Honors thesis/capstone.
- Discuss your Honors thesis/capstone ideas with a faculty member in your major area and confirm whether this individual will serve as your project sponsor.
- Meet with your Honors Academic Advisor to discuss the project.
- Complete the Honors thesis/capstone proposal, including the project form, project description, and faculty sponsor signature. Submit the Honors thesis/capstone project proposal to the Honors Program by November 15 for spring projects and April 15 for fall projects.
- Enroll in HR 490: Honors thesis/capstone (3 Honors credits; 0 SLU credits).



HONORS THESIS PROPOSAL

The Honors thesis/capstone proposal consists of this form, the project description, and the signature of a faculty sponsor. Honors students must complete the Honors thesis/capstone proposal the semester before conducting their thesis/capstone project. Proposals are due by November 15 for spring projects or by April 15 for fall projects.

Student Information	
Name	Banner ID #
Phone Number	Email
Major and Minor	Date of Graduation
Instructor Information	
Name	
Phone Number	Email
Course information	
Course Number & Title (example: PSY 404-01: History of Psychology)	Credit Hours
Semester	Year

Project Description:

Please type your responses on a separate piece of paper. Project descriptions should be thoroughly detailed but not exceed one page. Be sure to include your name and Banner ID on the project description and attach it to this form.

Describe your Honors thesis/capstone project in detail. Include the work or research to be completed, specific topics you will address, how it contributes to your overall course of study, and what contributions it may make to your major area. Also include relevant project deadlines, page lengths for written work, and other logistical information that will indicate the scope and size of the final product.

Statement of Commitment

I have read and understand the requirements for the Honors thesis/capstone. I understand that the Honors thesis/capstone is a requirement to earn the Honors degree. I must notify the Honors Program if my project changes or if I am unable to complete the project within the specified timeline. If I fail to fulfill the Honors thesis/capstone requirement, I understand that I will receive an incomplete grade for the course until I finish the project.

Signatures/Date		For Honors Program Use Only
Student:	Date: / /	Date Received:
Faculty:	Date: / /	Approval Signature: