

Thesis Success in Stages (TheSIS)

The University Honors College has designed the Thesis Success in Stages (TheSIS) process to support honors students as they develop, research, write, and complete their UHC thesis, the capstone of an honors baccalaureate degree. There are four components of TheSIS:

- **START** – An introduction to the thesis requirement and available resources.
- **LEARN** – A one-credit course (HC 408: LEARN) offered fall, winter, and spring terms that helps students begin the thesis process.
- **UNDERTAKE** – A one-credit course (HC 408: UNDERTAKE) offered fall, winter, and spring terms that helps students complete a thesis proposal and/or find a mentor.
- **GRADUATE** – A series of workshops and online resources designed to assist students in completing the research and writing of their thesis, finalizing the thesis document, defending their thesis, and participating in the UHC Thesis Fair.

Each of the stages of TheSIS has a corresponding module on the **TheSIS Blackboard Organization**. Information about upcoming workshops, as well as some online resources and course materials and assignments for the two HC 408 classes can be accessed through this site. Additional information and guidelines are available on the UHC thesis [webpage](#). To access Blackboard, go to <http://my.oregonstate.edu/> and login using your ONID account. Each UHC student is automatically enrolled in the TheSIS Organization, and a link will appear in the box titled “My Organizations” under “Organizations where you are: Participant.” If you do not see this on your main page, click the “Community” tab. **Note:** Many of you are probably familiar (or soon will be) with using Blackboard to access content associated with courses. The link to the TheSIS modules is NOT located in the same place as course links.

The organization link takes you to the TheSIS main page. Here, you will find links to pages for each stage of TheSIS and additional useful information, including details about faculty-student matching receptions.

Honors students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the resources available through the TheSIS process. The UHC requires students to take six (Honors Scholar) or three (Honors Associate) thesis or research credits, and both HC 408 classes earn one credit toward these requirements. In addition, TheSIS has been designed to help students progress toward thesis completion through a series of manageable steps.

1. **START** is designed to introduce new students in the University Honors College to the thesis requirement and some of the resources available to students that can support their thesis process. START has two elements, and all UHC students are encouraged to complete both in their **first year in the UHC**.
 - a. **START workshop** – Offered several times during the fall term, and once in winter and spring terms, this workshop presents general information about the thesis process. Sign-up for a workshop on the START blackboard page. The START workshop is also built into the ALS 199H U-Engage course.

- b. **START Thesis Basics Quiz** – This is a ten question, multiple-choice quiz on the Blackboard START page reviewing details about thesis requirements and expectations. All covered information is available either in the START workshop or on the [UHC thesis webpage](#). Students must answer nine of ten questions correctly to pass the quiz.

Completing START is a requirement of both HC 408: LEARN and UNDERTAKE, but not a prerequisite (i.e., START can be completed in conjunction with HC 408).

2. **HC 408: LEARN** is designed to help students begin the process of thinking about their thesis and creating a completion timeline. The course walks students through the steps involved in developing a topic and facilitates connections to resources that support thesis completion. It is offered in fall, winter, and spring terms, and all UHC students who do not have a thesis topic or mentor are encouraged to take the class in their **first or second years in the UHC**.

The syllabus for HC 408: LEARN is available on the Blackboard LEARN page. All assignments for LEARN are completed on this page, accessible via the TheSIS Organization page (not a course site – see above). Students in HC 408 will:

- a. Look at a completed UHC thesis.
 - b. Interview a current student who has completed a thesis proposal or UHC alum.
 - c. Interview a faculty member who is eligible to be a thesis mentor (Senior Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor).
3. **HC 408: UNDERTAKE** is offered fall, winter, and spring terms each year and has been created to support students who are writing a proposal or attempting to finalize a project or mentor relationship. **All students** – whether or not they take HC 408: UNDERTAKE – are encouraged to complete a **thesis proposal** by the end of their **third year in the UHC**.

The thesis proposal is the UHC's official record of the project that you and your mentor have agreed to complete. It is our only way of identifying your mentor for any mentor-specific communications, and it can shape our advising processes for you. In addition, completing a proposal is an essential component of the thesis process, providing the opportunity to create a clear, identifiable, and manageable thesis project with a realistic timeline and coherent path toward completion. Guidelines and an electronic submission system are available [here](#).

4. **GRADUATE** takes students through the final steps of the thesis process: **writing, defending, binding, and poster presentation**. The UHC has created workshops called Getting Started Writing, Thesis Poster Design, and Thesis Nuts & Bolts, in addition to online and paper pamphlets with requirements and guidelines to support students at this stage.

The thesis is a major project and a major opportunity. Although there are a variety of paths toward completion, we have found that students who start early and take advantage of the resources available – classes, workshops, advisors, faculty members – are more likely to complete the thesis. If you have any questions or are ever stuck along the way, do not hesitate to contact a UHC advisor.