

Thank you for exploring how to be an OSU Honors College Thesis Mentor

MENTORING an Honors College student as they research and write their thesis is a unique and rewarding experience. Faculty who have taken on this invaluable role in the past have appreciated the opportunity to work closely with an enthusiastic, dedicated, and talented student, and it is important to us that this be a positive experience for you, as well as for the student. The thesis is an essential component of the Honors requirements and, for many students, it is also one of the most rewarding and influential experiences of their undergraduate careers.

OUR GOAL is to engage Honors students in a hands-on, participatory learning experience that allows them to see a scholarly project from inception through defense and presentation. The Honors thesis project is much more than an extended term paper: think of it as more ambitious in scope and expectations while still appropriate to an undergraduate's experience and time. The thesis can be a traditional research project or it can be a creative work or service-oriented exercise with a clear scholarly framework. The projects may be within any discipline or interdisciplinary and do not need to be in or connected to the student's major field of study. Combining the HC thesis with another senior project requirement is allowed. Team projects are acceptable, but individual theses are required.

DISCUSS UP FRONT the thesis agreement and timeline included in the thesis proposal template (available at bit.ly/HCProposalTemplate). Knowing your student's desired thesis completion date and expectations will help you both determine a suitable topic, while helping to ensure timely completion. The agreement specifies your time commitment, which can vary depending on the nature of the project, your style and the needs of the student. Theses may vary in scope, but should be equivalent to 3-6 academic credits of work. After discussion, the mentor determines the project and work required for completion. It is important to submit a proposal, even if it is in a drafted format; **we understand that the project will evolve during this time and see the proposal as reflecting an early, rather than a final, stage in that evolution.**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES along with other information about the thesis can be found on the HC web site at bit.ly/HCMentorGuidelines. Specifically, the Mentor Guidelines contains more information about who can serve on the committee, expectations, and other information.

QUESTIONS? Don't hesitate to contact the HC associate dean (tara.williams@oregonstate.edu) or assistant dean (ben.mason@oregonstate.edu). If your student has questions about the thesis process, please encourage them to connect with an HC academic advisor by calling 541-737-6414 or emailing uhcadvisor@oregonstate.edu.



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