



# Honors Thesis Proposal

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior  Senior

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors Thesis Course Number\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester Enrolled for Thesis Credit: \_\_\_\_\_

\* HON 491 or departmental equivalent

Working Title of Honors Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Proposal Summary (250 words):

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Faculty

\_\_\_\_ I have read the proposal, approve of this project, and agree to support the student as described in the proposal.

\_\_\_\_ I can verify that the length and scope of this project is appropriate for an Honors thesis from my discipline.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will be asked to grade this project and confirm completion of the oral presentation.

Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LHC Director of Academic Affairs Decision:

Approved:

Not Approved:

LHC Director of Academic Affairs Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Honors Thesis

The Honors Thesis provides a culmination to an Honors student's academic career. It offers an opportunity—along with the responsibility—for a student to work with a faculty member in their chosen field on a research or creative project that integrates and applies previous work.

An Honors Thesis will reflect each student's major and interest. It may take the form of a paper developed out of independent research done in a lab, a creative project with research into an artistic movement or period, an engineering design report outlining an original solution to a significant problem, or another similarly academic, discipline-specific project. Each Honors Thesis should include relevant background information, an acknowledgment of its methods and techniques, the project itself, and a discussion of and reflection on the experience. A major goal of an Honors Thesis is for the student to demonstrate a command of the relevant scholarship in the research area and to document their own personal contributions to the topic.

Honors Thesis Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of the Honors Thesis a student will be able to

1. Pose appropriate research questions/hypotheses, formulate a plan to achieve the goal(s), estimate effort and resources required, and conduct appropriate background work before starting the project.
2. Engage in an independent research, design, or artistry project of significance with a degree of self-directedness, inventiveness, and professionalism appropriate for an advanced undergraduate.
3. Create a final research, design, or artistry product, which conveys thoughtful and enriching independent study experience.

Additional details provided on the LHC website, <https://www.uky.edu/honors/honors-thesis>.

## Honors Thesis Proposal

**Instructions:** In general, your Honors thesis proposal should follow the headings below, which are shown with the corresponding section headings for your thesis. Please note, the actual headings in your thesis will depend on the types of headings used in a thesis from your discipline. Please work closely with your faculty advisor to select the most appropriate headings. Please include enough contextual detail for evaluators outside your field to judge academic quality.

**\*\*\*Only typed submissions will be considered.\*\*\***

Proposal	Thesis
<b>Thesis Proposal Summary (250 words)</b> – Provide an overview of the thesis project.	<b>Abstract/Executive Summary</b> – Provide a summary of the entire thesis.
<b>Introduction/Background</b> – Explain the context and background necessary for a general reader, including your motivation and or statement of intent.	<b>Introduction/Background</b> – Explain the context and background necessary for a general reader, including your motivation and or statement of intent.
<b>Objectives/Goals/Hypothesis</b> – Clearly state what you hope to accomplish.	<b>Objectives/Goals/Hypothesis</b> – Clearly state what you hope to accomplish.
<b>Methods/Procedure/Creative Approach</b> – Detail the proposed method for carrying out this project. How will data be collected and analyzed? Is IRB required? What is the creative focus (for arts and humanities)?	<b>Methods/Procedure/Creative Approach</b> – Explain all of the materials and methods used.
<b>Expected Results</b> – What might the results of your research/creative work be? How could these results contribute to knowledge in the field? In other words, consider the question: Why does this work matter?	<b>Results/Creative Output</b> – Present the results of your thesis project.
<b>Process/Timeline</b> – What are the major components of your work and what is the expected timeline for completing each stage. Include details about how grades will be distributed and weighted.	<b>Discussion/Reflection</b> – Discuss the results of your project, whether it is a discussion about the results from a scientific study or a critical reflection on a creative project.
<b>Bibliography</b> – List 8 – 10 sources in MLA, APA, or Chicago format that will support your research.	<b>Conclusions/Recommendations</b> – to close your thesis, provide a conclusion and/or recommendation based on your thesis work.

Sections 3, 4, and 5 are aligned with the three questions posed in the BIO 395 learning contract.

## **Honors Thesis Timeline**

### **Second year - Second semester**

Students are encouraged to have identified their faculty advisor for their Honors thesis by the end of their sophomore year and to start a dialog about a possible thesis project. This will allow for ample time to write their Honors thesis proposal.

### **Third year - Second semester**

The faculty approved version of a student's thesis proposal must be submitted by the last day of dead week in the second semester of the student's junior year. This will allow for enough time for the student to complete the work for their Honors thesis during their senior year.

### **Fourth year - First or second semester**

Students are required to complete an Honors thesis course (HON 491 or departmental equivalent). Students are encouraged to enroll in their Honors thesis course in the first semester of their fourth year.

### **Fourth year - Second semester**

The final approved version of a student's thesis must be submitted by the last day of dead week the semester you are planning to graduate with honors. Students (and faculty) are encouraged to plan to turn the final approved version several weeks before the last day of dead week. Student may be allowed to turn in their final approved version after this deadline with approval from the Director of Academic Affairs and are eligible to receive Honors after graduation, but will not be able to participate in the Honors Medal Ceremony.