

SENIOR HONORS THESIS GUIDELINES FOR CSD MAJORS

Honors Requirements: In order to graduate with honors (cum laude), you must have an upper division grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or above. If this criterion is met, you will automatically graduate with honors and that fact will be indicated in your transcript and your diploma. If you wish to graduate with **High Honors** (magna cum laude) or **Highest Honors** (summa cum laude) you will, in addition to the 3.5 or above GPA, have to write an honors thesis which must be written, approved and submitted prior to graduation. The honors thesis should be written in APA style and should report the results of a research project completed under the supervision of a CSD faculty member. In addition, you must sign up for three credits of SPA 4931: Honors in Communication Sciences and Disorders, in the semester when you will complete the thesis. Research culminating in an honors thesis generally requires two or more semesters. If a student so desires, he/she may register for credits of Independent Study (SPA 4904) prior to registering for SPA 4931.

Should I do a Thesis: If you are interested in learning more about a particular subject, wish to gain some research experience, and are at least two to three semesters away from graduation, find a member of the faculty who is interested in your subject area and ask them if they would be willing to be your mentor for the project. An ideal time line would be to start thinking about a topic/project during semester one, actually carrying out the project during semester two and writing the thesis during semester three, the semester in which you will graduate. You should also register for three credits of SPA 4931 during semester three, the semester in which you will turn in the completed thesis to Linda O'Donnell at the academic Advisement Center, after receiving approval from your mentor and the departmental honors coordinator.

Thesis Format:

While fairly flexible in terms of format, a thesis should follow APA style and typically contains the following sections:

1. Title Page
2. Abstract of about 200 words or less which describes the project and its outcome. There is a form available from the department's honors coordinator or the Honors Office (140 Tigert).
3. Acknowledgments – who helped you and how they helped
4. Introduction – the purpose of the study and/or a statement of the problem
5. Short review of the literature
6. Methods section which describes what you did and how you did it.
7. Results
8. Discussion and Conclusions.
9. References

Length: There is no specific or required length for the thesis. Clarity and thoroughness should be the guidelines used. An average length of past theses has been approximately 20 pages.

What You can Do For a Thesis: The project can range from an in depth critical review of literature on a specific topic. It can be an original research project that you undertake and carry out to completion or it can be a part of an ongoing project being conducted by your mentor. In this case, you should document which parts of the project you carried out and which portions of the finished product, the paper, article or thesis you contributed to. If the paper is being published, indicate which journal it will appear in. If it is being presented at a meeting/convention, indicate the name of the meeting and where and when the paper was presented.