All students in the University Honors Program must complete the Honors thesis/capstone/creative project—but this requirement can be met many different ways. The Honors Program is open to students finding their own unique way to satisfy this requirement, so please come and speak to the Honors Director about your ideas. This activity/effort should be the culmination of your academic career in the University Honors Program at UNO. It is your opportunity to bring together the separate strands of your education into a final product that demonstrates your accomplishment.

Study, investigate, and embrace an area that has always interested you: what do you want to explore? How do the theories you have worked with in your major(s) translate into the reality of an experiment? Your first step toward a thesis is thinking about a topic you wish to pursue. Across the disciplines, there are different expectations for an Honors thesis, some of which are explored below. All efforts undertaken to satisfy this Honors requirement also have commonalities.

There are two principle ways to complete this requirement:

1. Students may enroll in HONR 4980: Thesis (which is what will appear on your transcript). There are prerequisites to getting the permission code for this course. Students may use an existing discipline’s course at the 4000 level. You must have consulted with and received the Director’s permission prior to beginning the course and you must have submitted the required materials (see inside) outlining precisely what you are doing to extend the depth and breadth of your learning experience in the course and what will thus constitute your Honors capstone work.

2. Students may enroll in HONR 4980: Thesis (which is what will appear on your transcript). There are prerequisites to getting the permission code for this course. Students may use an existing discipline’s course at the 4000 level. You must have consulted with and received the Director’s permission prior to beginning the course and you must have submitted the required materials (see inside) outlining precisely what you are doing to extend the depth and breadth of your learning experience in the course and what will thus constitute your Honors capstone work.
TIME AND ORGANIZATION

An Honors thesis/capstone/creative project is the equivalent (at least) to an upper-division three credit hour course—and students need to ensure they factor that work expectation into their class load. Some students choose to extend their efforts to six credit hours, which is an option available to all. You must be organized with your effort and time and continually be working on your thesis—leaving it all to the end does not represent your best work.

HELP

Faculty mentors donate their time to appreciate your mentors, it is a lot of their time and energy to help, direct, and support you. You need to be self-motivated and committed and engaged with your project and driving your effort. You should interact with your mentor frequently and be comfortable asking for help. You also have the Honors Director as a resource if you have questions or concerns about your project.

LENGTH

Length does not denote quality necessarily, so you should consider sticking with the chosen field and should avoid most offshoot undergraduate courses.

SUBMISSION

All Honors theses are submitted electronically to Digital Commons. Students must create an account in digital commons at
digitalcommons.unomaha.edu

LOG IN TO YOUR DIGITAL COMMONS ACCOUNT AND FOLLOW THE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE. The form should connect your work with that of your faculty mentor (the latter being designated within the system as your faculty mentor by the Honors Program office). After you have agreed to review and respond to your work. If approved, the faculty mentor works through Digital Commons to let both the student and Honors Program know the work is approved. The student must approve the final version as it will be posted in Digital Commons.

PROCEDURES

All procedures must be filed electronically at UNO; deadlines are set, announced, and should be met for each step. Any unexpected delays must be communicated clearly ahead of deadlines in order to be accommodated—and such requests should be very rare.

ABSTRACT OF THESIS: LIMIT TO 200 WORDS

The abstract should begin with a definitive statement of the problem, project, or creative activity, delineating the paper’s purpose, scope, and limit. Describe research methods and design, major findings, or creative work, the significance of the work, if appropriate, and conclusions. Students whose project involves creative work (original, fine art, music, writing, theatre or film production, dance, etc.) should describe process and production, etc. The abstract should be organized with your effort and time and do not represent your best work.

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