Welcome to your senior year!

In this packet, you will find information about your Senior Thesis requirements as well as information about the types of honors you may earn from GW.

All Honors students must complete the Honors Senior Thesis requirement, no matter what school or other program you are in.

The options for completing the Honors Senior Thesis requirement are outlined in this packet. If you are unclear about these options, be sure to talk to an Honors Program Officer.

In addition to completing the Honors Senior Thesis requirement, you are also required to take the Honors Capstone class for 1 credit. The Capstone is not the same as the Honors Senior Thesis.

Best wishes for a successful senior year!
Types of Honors

There are three ways to receive honors from GWU:

1. **Latin Honors**
   
   Determined by cumulative GPA:
   
   - *Cum Laude* 3.40-3.59
   - *Magna Cum Laude* 3.60-3.79
   - *Summa Cum Laude* 3.80-4.0

   This will appear on your diploma.

2. **Special Honors in a Major or School**

   The requirements for special honors vary from department to department (and from school to school), so you should contact your major advisor for more information.

   Courses taken in the pursuit of special honors will fulfill your *Honors course requirement* for the semester as well as your *Honors Senior Thesis requirement*. You must fulfill all special honors requirements of your department to earn honors credit. Please check with your major department for more details and consult with an Honors Program Officer.

   This will appear on your transcript.

3. **University Honors Program Graduate**

   By completing the University Honors Program requirements, you will be listed as a graduate of the University Honors Program. To earn this distinction, you must:

   - Graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or above
   - Take at least 12 credit hours every semester
   - Take the Honors Capstone course
   - Fulfill all departmental requirements to pursue special honors in your major or complete an Honors Senior Thesis
   - Fulfill all other honors requirements and be in good standing with the program.

   This will also appear on your transcript.
Option One
Special Honors Through Major or School

The University Honors Program encourages you to pursue your senior thesis through one of the following options delineated by school by applying for special honors in your major. If you do not pursue one of the options below, then you must complete a thesis through the University Honors Program (Option Two).

Please note that you must submit a signed Special Honors Verification Form to our office to have your pursuit of special honors count towards your honors senior thesis requirement.

CCAS
Consider applying for special honors in your major. Each department has different criteria for earning special honors, so make sure to check with your major advisor about special honors requirements. Some departments will require that you take more than one course to pursue special honors. You must fulfill all requirements of your department to fulfill your honors senior thesis requirement. Please note that some departments do not grant special honors; if your department does not grant special honors, you should take HONR 4198 as outlined in Option Two.

The course(s) that count(s) in your major are determined by the department and the undergraduate bulletin.

These requirements apply to students in special 5 year and 7 year programs as well.

ESIA
ESIA Senior Seminar (IAFF 4191): students may select from three to four courses offered during one of their final semesters at GW. Topics of seminars vary each semester, but the course must be titled “Senior Seminar.”

-OR-
ESIA Senior Thesis (IAFF 4199): this 3–credit independent study requires a thesis of 30 pages or more in length on a contemporary, multi–lateral, international affairs topic. The topic must be approved.

GWSB
BADM 4801: “Strategy Formulation and Implementation” counts as the Senior Seminar course for GWSB Honors students. You are welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198 as well.

This requirement applies to students in special 5 year programs as well.

SEAS
For Engineering students, the senior design project completed for their major counts as an Honors course.

You are welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198 as well.
This requirement applies to students in special 5 year programs as well.

**SPHHS**
For Public Health students, the senior seminar (4110) completed for their major counts as an Honors course.

You are welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198 as well.
Option Two
Thesis or Seminar Through the University Honors Program
Open to all University Honors Program Seniors

HONR 4198, 3 - 4 Credit Hours
Honors Senior Thesis
One or Two Semesters

The Honors Senior Thesis allows you to complete an independent senior thesis
(independent means “not associated with a seminar”). First, you must find a faculty advisor
who is willing to advise you in preparing a senior thesis. This faculty advisor will be
responsible for grading your final product. Some students choose to organize a senior thesis
committee, but this is not required, as only one faculty member will have authority for giving
the final grade.

You may take HONR 4198 for either one or two semesters. During this time, you will
complete a library-based research paper, a primary research-based paper, or a creative project
(this option is generally for Fine Arts and Creative Writing majors).

You will need to fill out an Honors Contract, RTF-EZ form, and submit a thesis proposal
(in conjunction with your thesis advisor) at the beginning of the semester to be fully
registered for HONR 4198. The Honors newsletter will announce the due date for the
Contract forms. Please consult an Honors Program Advisor for more information about
this process.

After submitting your Honors Contract and Registration Transaction Form, the University
Honors Program will contact the professor to confirm the agreement. Towards the end of
the semester, the University Honors Program then requests the grade from the professor.