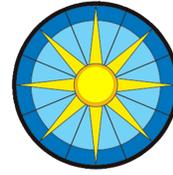


University Honors Program



Senior Thesis Information Packet

Senior year is right around the corner!!

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, and is a 1-credit, pass/no pass course that invites students to re-engage with core questions and issues related to the Honors Program curriculum, reflecting on their learning in relation to enduring questions and challenges of our world.

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 between departments and schools, so you should contact your major advisor for more information.

Courses taken in the pursuit of special honors will fulfill 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

Through Major or School

The University Honors Program encourages you to pursue your senior thesis through one of the following options delineated by school. If you do not pursue one of the options below, then you must complete a thesis through the University Honors Program (Option Two). All requirements apply to students in special 5-year and 7-year programs as well.

CCAS

Consider applying for special honors in your major. Each department has different criteria for earning special honors, so make sure to check the University Bulletin and 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. 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.

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.

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 within the Elliott School.

GWSB

BADM 4801: "Strategy Formulation and Implementation" fulfills the Honors Senior Thesis requirement. You are also welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198.

SEAS

For Engineering students, the senior design project completed for their major fulfills the Honors Senior Thesis requirement. You are also welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198.

Milken

PH 4140W: "Senior Seminar" completed for the Public Health major fulfills the Honors Senior Thesis requirement. You are also welcome and encouraged to take HONR 4198.

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. Your faculty advisor does not have to be an Honors professor and can be anyone who teaches at GW, except for a part-time Honors Program faculty member. If you’re not sure whether or not a faculty member can oversee your Thesis, please check with a Program Officer. 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 proposal must include a brief description of your project, your meeting schedule with your advisor, any deadlines throughout the semester, a breakdown of how your final grade will be calculated, and a grading rubric. The Honors newsletter will announce the due date for the Contract forms. Please consult an Honors Program Officer for more information about this process.

After submitting your Honors Contract and RTF-EZ, 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.