

Senior Thesis with Distinction *Guidelines*

1. A senior thesis is a scholarly project in which the student is expected to show a command of the relevant scholarship in her/his field and contribute to that scholarship. The thesis topic should be selected by the student and incorporate original ideas. A thesis is a substantial work that goes beyond the normal requirements of a class project or paper. All theses must have formal documentation of research and planning methodology, performance and investigation, and a written component that puts the student's work in context and reviews the relevant literature. The thesis must be well-written and adhere to the standard format of the discipline. A thesis could consist of any of the following: critical or textual analysis; creative performance or exhibit; a business plan; interpretation of a text or art object; laboratory or field experiment; case study; novel or short stories; or an applied project in a fields such as (but not limited to) mathematics, statistics, computing, engineering or architecture.
2. Students will inform the Honors Advisory Council through formal application of their intent to pursue a senior thesis with distinction by **January 3** and will receive academic credit for completing the thesis. These credits may be part of a formal course or may be earned by enrolling in an independent study course.
3. Eligibility requirements will be determined by the Academic Department or School. Each School/Department will provide to the Honors Advisory Council with a written document outlining the eligibility requirements (i.e., minimum GPA, proposal, prerequisites, etc.), academic course credits, and selection criteria that will be used in their department. These documents will ultimately be placed on a web site and will be available to all students and faculty to ensure that expectations are clear.
4. Each department/school will nominate students to receive "Thesis with Distinction" recognition. Prior to being nominated, each thesis must be read by two faculty members. The first reader should be the faculty instructor/mentor directing the thesis and the second reader can be a faculty member in the same department/school or from a different department/school. In addition to these two readers, the University Honors Advisory Council reserves the right to read theses to assure consistent quality across the disciplines. The final recommendation for "distinction" rests with the Honors Advisory Council in collaboration with each sponsoring Academic Department or School.
5. In order for students to earn "Thesis with Distinction" recognition, including official transcript annotation, all the appropriate deadlines must be met. These deadlines will be set by the Honors Advisory Council in collaboration with

Registrar at the beginning of each academic year and may require that students complete their projects prior to the end of the spring semester in their senior year.

6. This recognition will be administered through the Office of Academic Affairs. The Honors Advisory Council assists in the administration and consists of faculty members from each of the schools and divisions of FCAS.