

Learning Lab

Independent Thesis Project: Student Expectations

The honors thesis is a comprehensive research project culminating in both a scholarly paper and an oral presentation of your work. It is an opportunity to work closely alongside graduate students and faculty to develop your critical thinking, analyzation, and presentation skills as well as to expand your knowledge on the academic research process. This highly extensive project requires a great amount of time, effort, patience, and flexibility. It is highly suggested that each student sit down with their graduate mentors to create a detailed list of expectations for communication, product, and deadlines that best meet the needs of your thesis group.

That being said, please see below for a generalized timeline of deadlines for written work:

Deadlines:

- Introduction and Methods = **End of Fall Semester**
 - Should be well thought out draft, revised and edited at least once before passing in to Jen.
 - Needs to be signed by both your faculty sponsor and departmental honors psychology faculty.
 - Need to have secondary thesis chair finalized and/or additional faculty readers.
- Second Semester Proposal = **End of Fall Semester**
 - Includes both your introduction and methods sections – vital for these sections to be completed ahead of time.
- Final Paper = **Spring Semester**
 - To Grad Mentors = 1 month before presentation date
 - To Jen = 3 weeks before presentation date
 - To Adjunct Faculty = 10 days before presentation date

Please remember when reading these deadlines, that much work is required to achieve each draft and the subsequent rounds of edits. Writing for this kind of project can be very time consuming and it may be best to set aside large chunks of time for you to conceptualize and put into written word your research questions, the structure of your project, findings, and analysis. Please try and be cognisant of your schedule as well as the schedules of your graduate mentors, sponsoring and adjunct faculty. It is expected that you keep to your deadlines with your mentors to the best of your ability and in turn your mentors will do their best to provide thoughtful suggestions and edits to your work in a timely manner. Know that with every comment or suggested edit or cut, your mentors are trying to help you create a paper that efficiently expresses your research in a clean and decisive manner. Try and keep in mind that this project is continuously fluid, right up until submission.