

Honors Program

Student Handbook

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required”

(Luke 12:48)



Jerry Falwell Library, Suite 380

1971 University Blvd #710018

Lynchburg, VA 24515

434-592-3304

www.liberty.edu/honors

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PART ONE: THE HONORS PROGRAM

Mission Statement

The Liberty University Honors Program is designed to provide gifted and talented students with the opportunity to achieve their highest intellectual and creative potential in a nurturing, Christian atmosphere with caring and credentialed Honors faculty.

Memberships

The Liberty University Honors Program holds memberships in the following professional organizations, and its students actively present papers and posters at their conferences:

- Virginia Collegiate Honors Council <http://www.vchc.net/index.html>
- Southern Regional Honors Council <http://www.srhconline.org/>
- National Collegiate Honors Council <http://www.nchchonors.org>
- Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium <http://bigsouthsports.com/>

Administration

<http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?pid=343>

Dr. Jim Nutter	Honors Program Director Professor of English Quiz Bowl Coach	jhnutter@liberty.edu
Dr. Marilyn Gadomski	Assistant Director of Honors Professor of Psychology	mlgadoms@liberty.edu
Dr. Cindy Goodrich	Assistant Director of Honors Professor of Nursing	cgoodrich@liberty.edu
Mr. Chris Nelson	Assistant Director of Honors Associate Professor of Theatre Arts	cnelson@liberty.edu
Dr. David Schweitzer	Assistant Director of Honors Associate Professor of Mathematics	deschweitzer@liberty.edu
Dr. Emily Knowles	Assistant Director of Honors Associate Professor of Business	
Dr. Mark Schmidt	Assistant Director of Honors Associate Professor of English	
Mrs. Laura Kline	Office Manager	kline@liberty.edu

Teaching Faculty

<http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=5022>

Honors Student Profile

Enrollment & Scholarships

- 740 Honors students receive a \$4,000 scholarship
 - 91 *National Merit Finalists* are on full scholarship
 - 114 *National Merit Commended* students are on a full-tuition scholarship
- 3.86 average college GPA
- 164 of our 740 students (22%) have a perfect 4.0 college GPA

Graduate Schools

Liberty Honors Program alumni have been accepted into the following graduate schools:

Ivy League

- Harvard
- Yale
- Columbia
- Cornell
- Dartmouth
- Brown
- UPenn

International

- Cambridge
- Edinburgh
- National (Singapore)
- Wydzial (Poland)

Top-Tier Public & Private

- Virginia
- William & Mary
- Johns Hopkins
- Chicago
- Vanderbilt
- Notre Dame
- Duke
- Michigan
- North Carolina

Communication

According to *The Liberty Way*, “Liberty student email accounts are the official means of communication for the Liberty University community and students are expected to check their email account on a regular basis” (19). The Honors Program communicates via Liberty e-mail. Please read carefully all e-mail communication sent to you from our office.

- General inquiries: honorsprogram@liberty.edu
- Director’s email: jhnutter@liberty.edu
- Office location: Jerry Falwell Library, Scholars Commons, room 364
- Mailing Address:

Honors Program
Liberty University
MSC Box #710018
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24515

PART TWO: HONORS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Application and Admission

Application deadlines: November 1, December 1, February 1, and March 1

High School Students

- Required scores
 - 3.50 GPA (unweighted)
 - 1330 SAT (critical reading & math) or 28 ACT (composite)
- Essay: “What I Hope to Gain from an Honors Program Education at Liberty University”
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers
- Application

You must have been admitted or concurrently in the process of applying to Liberty University in order to be accepted into the Honors Program. Admission to Liberty University's Honors Program is *competitive*, and enrollment is *limited*.

All students accepted into the Honors Program receive the \$4,000 annual scholarship for four years (8 semesters). In addition, *National Merit Finalists* receive full tuition as well as room and board. *Semifinalists* and *Commended* students receive full tuition. A certificate from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation is required. The National Merit scholarships are much more competitive than the Honors scholarships.

LU and Transfer Students

- 60 or fewer credit hours (by the end of the spring semester)
- 3.50 GPA (minimum)
- Essay: “What I Hope to Gain from an Honors Program Education at Liberty University”
- Two letters of recommendation from professors
- Application form

While prospective high school students have priority, a select number of transfer and Liberty students are accepted each year. The selection process is competitive, and enrollment is limited.

Transferring from another college's Honors Program is especially welcomed, and a letter of recommendation for the program's Honors Director is required.

Academic Excellence

Students in the Honors Program are expected to maintain high academic standards. To be considered in good standing and free to continue to participate in the program, students must:

- maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above

- complete Honors coursework *every* semester
- accumulate fewer than 18 points for violations of *The Liberty Way*
- maintain status as a full-time residential student (12-18 credit hours)

If your cumulative GPA falls below 3.50 at the end of the spring semester, you will be *dismissed* from the Honors Program and lose eligibility for future scholarship. If your GPA falls below 3.50 at the end of the fall semester, you will be put on probation. You will have a one-semester grace period before your Honors scholarship is canceled. There is no grace period following the spring semester.

If you are able to raise your GPA to 3.50 or above by taking summer school intensives and/or LUO courses, you may request to be reinstated when your grades are posted and visible to the Honors Program. Requests for reinstatement will be considered based on availability of scholarship funds. See Appeal Process below.

Expectations of Honors Students

As an Honors scholar at Liberty University, I understand that certain responsibilities accompany the privilege I enjoy as a participant in Liberty University's Honors Program. I understand that it is incumbent upon me to set the standard among my peers in terms of academic excellence, moral integrity, and Christian character. I also understand that I must fulfill all the requirements of the Honors Program in order to continue as a participant in the program and to receive any scholarship which I may be granted as an Honors student. I realize that failure to fulfill all the requirements of the Honors Program (see section 5, Curricular Requirements) may result in loss of part or all of my scholarship and/or dismissal from the program.

Dismissal from the Program

When a student has been reported by the Registrar of not maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above, or by Student Affairs for having accumulated 18 or more points, the Honors Director will notify that student by email of his or her dismissal from the Honors Program.

Appeal Process

Letters of appeal should be emailed to the Honors Director, Dr. Jim Nutter, at jhnutter@liberty.edu and state the reason and justification for your appeal. Examples of common appeals include the following circumstances.

Loss of the Honors and/or National Merit scholarship due to:

1. Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA 3.50 at the end of the spring semester.
2. Accumulation of 18 or more points assigned by the Office of Student Conduct.
3. Failure to complete Honors coursework in a given semester.

If your appeal is denied by Dr. Nutter in the Honors office, the student can submit another emailed appeal to Dr. Roger Schultz, who is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, at rschultz@liberty.edu.

Advising

The Honors Program at Liberty University is a multi-disciplinary program and is open to all residential four-year majors. Honors Seminars offered are on the majority of Degree Completion Plans (DCP): see the left column of the DCP where general education courses are listed. If the Honors student is having difficulty choosing two seminars that fit the schedule, schedule an advising appointment with the Director who can likely resolve any scheduling issues.

Exit Interview

All graduating seniors must complete an online exit interview to evaluate their experience in the Honors Program.

PART THREE: HONORS CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

As an Honors student at Liberty University, I understand that certain responsibilities accompany the privilege I enjoy as a participant in Liberty University's Honors Program. Each Honors student must complete Honors coursework each and every semester: no coursework equals no Honors scholarship.

- Eight Honors seminars (100-200 level)
- Three Honors-petitioned courses (300-400 level) in the student's major
- One course of Senior Honors Thesis (HONR 495)

Types of Honors Coursework

1. Honors Seminars

Over forty 100-200 level Honors seminars are offered across the curriculum: these courses are discussion driven, emphasize higher-level critical thinking skills, and most are taught by full-time senior faculty, over 90% of whom possess a doctorate or terminal degree in their teaching discipline.

What differentiates an Honors seminar from a regular general education class?

- Honors seminars are smaller, ranging from 10-25 students. This environment provides more opportunities for discussion-based learning and gives students the benefit of knowing each other and their professor.
- While most Honors seminars have a slightly heavier workload, the real difference lies in emphasis. For example, some Honors Theology seminars expound on a particular theological issue for most of the semester in addition to the general information covered in other basic theology classes. Honors Speech may cover certain principles of rhetoric applied to public speaking, and an Honors English class may require one or more short novels in addition to the normal literature anthology.
- Beyond the basic course requirements of non-honors sections, Honors sections and the professors that teach them take time to explore, in-depth, the many facets of the concepts covered, providing a rich and memorable educational experience for the

students involved.

- To challenge their students to go above and beyond the status quo, most professors teaching Honors class sections will either require a more extensive project (e.g., a 9-10 page paper instead of a 5-7), have an additional project, presentation, and/or book assigned that is not required in their other sections. Typically, the work load depends on the professor and on how much the student is willing to apply himself or herself to the subject at hand.

2. *Honors Petitions*

Before petitioning a 300-400 level class, your seminar requirement must be met.

Petitioning means that students must complete an extra project for their class in order for it to be classified as an Honors course, and the students and professor must agree—in writing—as to what type of project would constitute Honors credit. Also, the students' project must be at least "B" quality work to receive Honors credit.

Ideally, the petition project should, in some way, contribute to a student's Senior Honors Thesis, which is normally less than one year away. Any type of preliminary research or literature review toward the thesis would certainly be most beneficial to the Honors student. Examples of past petition projects include:

1. Attendance and/or participation at a local or regional lecture or conference
2. Assistance in course instruction (tutoring, researching, guest lecturing and/or creating PowerPoint presentations)
3. Participation in a field trip related to course content
4. Completion of essay examinations rather than objective tests (i.e., multiple choice)
5. Contribution to a research project in which a professor is currently involved
6. Compilation of an annotated bibliography of primary or secondary sources
7. Comprehension of assigned reading not normally given at the undergraduate level

The petition form serves as a binding contract, so the student should not sign it until he or she has discussed the project with the professor and department chair.

How to Petition?

Decide which 3-credit, 300-400 level course in your major or on your DCP you want to petition (EDUC 2-credit courses are also acceptable).

- Approach professor and discuss requirements.
 1. Complete form by typing in information.
 2. Obtain 3 signatures at the bottom:
 - Student's signature
 - Professor's signature
 - Department chair's signature
- Return completed form to the Honors Program by September 1 for the fall semester or February 1 for the spring semester.
- Complete and submit the project to your professor by due date indicated on the petition form.

- On Reading Day, the Honors Office will email professors to determine if the student has met all requirements and passed the petition.
- The petition requirements must be of at least “B” quality work to receive credit as an Honors petition. You do NOT have to get a “B” in the course to complete the petition; however, you do need to pass the course.
- Professors may offer an opportunity to revise a failing petition project, but they are not required to do so.
- WARNING: failure to complete an Honors petition will result in a *loss of your Honors scholarship* for that semester.

3. **HONR 395—*Quantitative Research Methods and Design***

Dr. Gadomski teaches a section of HONR 395. This class is designed to help students who are doing empirical research for their thesis, meaning interviewing human subjects and doing data collection based on those interviews. And you can get **Honors Petition credit** for this course. Here is Dr. Gadomski’s description of the class:

"HONR 395 will ease your data collection/empirical research/analysis for your Senior Honors Thesis. Psychology, Nursing, and any other students with empirical research should be in this course in the first semester of the Junior year, and it is urgent to be in this course in any later semester of the degree program. Class discussion and assignments will assist with the scientific method, topic of the thesis, sources, design, committee selection, and production of your Senior Honors Thesis Proposal. When HONR 395 is finished, the next stage—the Proposal—will be nearly complete. You may certainly change any aspect of the proposal, but the time invested now, with support, can ease and shorten your empirical research thesis process."

4. **HONR 495—*Senior Honors Thesis***

According to the LU catalog, “This individually designed thesis will be directed by a faculty member from the honor student's major department in consultation with the department chairperson and the Director of the Honors Program.”

Successful completion of HONR 495 is *required* to graduate from the Honors Program and earn the distinction of Honors Scholar. See pages 14-18 for more details.

Honors Curriculum Tracks

The number of Honors seminars is set based upon the number of credit hours you have when accepted to the Honors Program.

- 0-23 hours = 8 Honors Seminars
- 24-59 hours = 4 Honors seminars
- 60 hours = 2 Honors seminars

The following table shows how our Honors curriculum applies to incoming freshmen with 0-23 credit hours (4-year plan).

Track I: 4 Years		
	Fall	Spring
Freshman	2 Honors Seminars	2 Honors Seminars
Sophomore	2 Honors Seminars	2 Honors Seminars
Junior	Petition #1	Petition #2 Thesis Proposal due March 1
Senior	Petition #3	HONR 495

If you enter the Honors Program as a *sophomore*, with fewer than 59 credit hours, and plan to graduate in 3 years (6 semesters), you would follow Track II to complete your Honors curricular requirements.

Track II: 3 years		
	Fall	Spring
Sophomore	2 Honors Seminars	2 Honors Seminars
Junior	Petition #1	Petition #2 Thesis Proposal due March 1
Senior	Petition #3	HONR 495

If you enter the Honors Program as a *junior*, with 60 credit hours, and plan to graduate in 2 years (4 semesters), you would follow Track III to complete your Honors curricular requirements.

Track III: 2 years		
	Fall	Spring
Junior	2 Honors Seminars	Petition #1 Thesis Proposal due March 1
Senior	Petition #2	Petition #3 HONR 495

If you enter the Honors Program with 24+ credit hours but plan to be here 4 years (8 semesters), you would follow Track IV to complete your Honors curricular requirements.

Track IV: 4 years and 24+ credits		
	Fall	Spring
Freshman	2 Honors Seminars	2 Honors Seminars
Sophomore	1 Honors Seminar (if requirement is met) OR 1 Petition*	1 Honors Seminar (if requirement is met) OR 1 Petition*
Junior	Petition #1	Petition #2 Thesis Proposal due March 1
Senior	Petition #3	HONR 495

*Only 300/400 level courses in your major can be petitioned for Honors credit. If you cannot petition, then one seminar will have to be taken to fulfill the coursework requirement.

Common Curricular Topics (in alphabetical order)

Conferences

The Honors Program has funding for students who are chosen to present papers or posters at state-wide, regional, or national Honors conferences or research conferences. Funding may include the cost for registration fees, transportation, lodging, and/or meals.

Dismissal from the Honors Program

Students can be dismissed from the Honors Program for:

- Not maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above
- The accumulation of 18 or more points for violations of *The Liberty Way*
- Not completing Honors coursework every semester
- Not maintaining status as a full-time residential student (12-18 credit hours)

MYTH: If I am dismissed from the Honors Program, I have to pay back ALL the scholarship funds I have received.

FACT: You will not receive any future scholarships. You will lose current semester scholarship for not completing coursework. If you failed to complete a petition, you will lose scholarship for that semester.

Eagle Scholars Program

Students cannot participate in both the Honors Program and Eagle Scholars Program for the freshman year. For additional information about the Eagle Scholar Program can be found at <http://www.liberty.edu/academics/casas/index.cfm?PID=27824>.

Early Course Registration

Honors registration applies to *current* residential students only. New students will register by classification the first semester. Registration for Honors Program will be announced well in advance by the Honors Program office via e-mail.

Fulbright

Petition credit will be given to students completing a Fulbright application. A petition form must be completed, submitted, and signed by the professor and the LU Fulbright Program advisor, Dr. Edna Udobong. For more information, contact Dr. Udobong at eudobong3@liberty.edu. To learn more, see <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/>.

Graduating as an Honors Scholar

Students successfully completing all Honors Program requirements will graduate as an *Honors Scholar* and noted on the diploma and transcript. Students will also receive the Honors medallion and certificate after successful completion of HONR 495 with a grade of “C” or better.

Honorable Mention

Honorable Mention is the newsletter published by the LU Honors Program. It publishes announcements and information of importance and interest to Honors, articles about current and past Honors students, updates about the Quiz Bowl team, and conference presentations and awards. The articles are written by the Honors staff, the Honors editorial staff, current Honors students, and Honors alumni; and approved by Editor-in-Chief and is accessible at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honorable_mention/?_ga=2.119044367.725875083.1495562979-1441151139.1393279490.

Honors Housing

Honors Program students have the opportunity to live in Honors housing. The second floor of Commons 2 has been designated as an Honors floor with approximately 74 female and 54 male beds. Living on the Honors floor is optional, and *space is limited*.

- Honors Program offices are nearby, housed on the third floor of Jerry Falwell Library, in the Scholars Commons area.
- The Scholars Commons provides an ideal location where Honors students can study as well as socialize in community.

The Kabod

The Kabod is the official scholarly research journal of LU Honors Program. It publishes papers written by Honors students while they were enrolled either in an Honors seminar or in a 300-400 level class they petitioned for Honors credit. The papers have been verified as having received an “A” from the professor who graded the assignment. They have been approved for publication by the editor-in-chief and edited by a staff of Honors students who are gifted with editing. The banner was designed by Graphic Design major and Honors student Sarah Keller. In our desire to honor God and give Him glory, we have selected only those papers that demonstrate outstanding scholarship, rigorous research, sophisticated craftsmanship, and astute and original insights, the combination of which we consider to be *Kabod*. See the latest volume at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/kabod/?_ga=2.92694557.1824556387.1499692119-1343689962.1465495592.

Moral Integrity

I understand that while I am a student at Liberty University I am to conduct myself according to the standards set forth in *The Liberty Way*. If it is determined at any time that I have participated in any activity which is forbidden by *The Liberty Way*, I may be dismissed from the Honors Program. I understand that a total of 18 points will in all cases result in dismissal from the Honors Program and loss of the Honors scholarship (and National Merit) for the semester. If dismissal occurs, the scholarship(s) will be dropped for current semester and future semesters.

Quiz Bowl

Often called “the varsity sport of the mind,” LU’s Quiz Bowl team is funded by the Honors Program and has been to Nationals twice in recent years (ranked 14th in 2014 and 20th in 2013) and is 10-time Big South Conference champions. Students who make the team may receive an additional \$2,000 Quiz Bowl scholarship. For more information, go to <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=12721>.

Reinstatement

Students who are dismissed from the Honors Program due to GPA and/or failure to take Honors coursework may not participate in Honors for at least one full semester following their removal from the program. The only exception is if students take coursework over the summer to bring their GPA back up to the required 3.50 before the beginning of the fall semester.

Requests for reinstatement must be made in writing to Dr. Jim Nutter by emailing a request to jhnutter@liberty.edu. The required 3.50 GPA must be reflected on student records before reinstatement. Requests will be granted pending the availability of scholarships. Historically, this has not been a problem but is not guaranteed. See the *Appeal Process* section on page 6 of the handbook for further information.

Student Athletes

Over 20 Division I varsity athletes are members of our Honors Program, representing the following sports—football, basketball, soccer, softball, track, cross country, tennis, lacrosse, field hockey, and swimming.

Study Abroad

Students who participate in study abroad will simply be put “on hold” for a semester in regards to the Honors Program scholarship and coursework. Upon return to campus, the student must notify us and fulfill their Honors requirements to graduate as an Honors scholar. The National Merit Finalist scholarship which covers room and board *cannot* be used to study abroad. Students do not need to reapply if they were enrolled in the program. However, students who simply break enrollment for a semester or year may need to reapply. For more information, go to <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=19849>.

Washington Fellowship

Over the years, many Honors Program students have participated in this internship program. Most students participate during their senior year the same time they are completing the Senior

Honors Thesis (as an independent study). Another option is to take HONR 495 a semester early and complete your third petition while doing the [Washington Fellowship](#).

Honors coursework (petition or thesis) must be completed to earn scholarship for the semester in Washington, DC. Two options—prepare a petition form and submit to the Honors Program office *before* you leave campus or have your thesis committee agree to work with you online.

Withdrawal

Honors students who wish to withdraw from the program, complete the withdraw form located on the Honors Program website in the resource section. Coursework for final semester must be completed or loss of scholarship for that semester will occur.

Students who withdraw from the Honors Program are not automatically dropped from any lower- or upper-division Honors courses in which they may be enrolled. It is the responsibility of the student to drop any coursework.

The Senior Honors Thesis

Understanding the Thesis Process

Students must enroll in and pass HONR 495, which is a required 3-credit class that receives a letter grade. The expectations and goals of the Honors thesis are to produce a product that is a serious piece of scholarly writing in that student's major field of study:

- the paper length is 25 pages
- students may choose to write
 - **Traditional Thesis** - research-based and chosen by most majors
 - *empirical study* (needing IRB approval) or
 - *extended research paper* requiring scholarly sources, or
 - **Creative Thesis**—such as writing a play or a novel or producing a short film, if the student is a Theatre Arts, English, Cinematic Arts, Studio Arts, and Communications (see page 16).
- the thesis may serve as a student's writing sample when applying to graduate schools
- a copy of the thesis is required to be hard bound and housed in the Honors office; an electronic copy is should also be submitted to the Liberty's Digital Commons at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honors/?_ga=2.220129947.328637265.1496281128-1343689962.1465495592.

Thesis Proposal

During an Honors student's junior year, he or she is required to submit a thesis proposal (see www.liberty.edu/honors/thesis), which involves the following:

Submit *thesis proposal* to the Honors office by:

- March 1 for spring graduation
- October 1 for fall graduation
 - Proposal form (signed by committee and department chair)
 - 3-5 page proposal

- 20-source bibliography

The student begins the preliminary research and writing of the thesis over the next year. The student takes HONR 495-Senior Honors Thesis the last semester, and the course is designed primarily for editing the thesis, since the first draft is due about 3 weeks into the semester.

Thesis Committee Selection

Listed below are the requirements for selecting your committee:

- The committee consists of a thesis chair and two readers
 - All 3 must be full-time, residential faculty
 - No adjunct professors or LUO professors
- Thesis chair and one other reader must be from the student's major
- One reader must be from *outside* of the student's school (i.e., Arts & Sciences, Divinity, Business)

Responsibilities of the Thesis Chair

The chair's responsibility is to read at least two separate drafts of a student's thesis, and require him or her to revise and edit it until the chair is willing to assign a grade. From mid-February through mid-March, the thesis chair is actively engaged in helping the student with his or her thesis. After that, the HONR 495 professor helps the student edit any minor issues with formatting and style.

Responsibilities of the Thesis Committee

The thesis chair has "veto power" in case there is a disagreement among committee members, and the thesis chair reads the first draft a month before the other committee members see a draft: the student's first priority is to please the committee chair and get feedback on the thesis before it goes to the rest of the committee. A thesis chair reads a total of two drafts, and the thesis committee reads a total of one draft; the third draft is read only by the HONR 495 professor.

When committee members sign off on a thesis, they are not necessarily saying the draft is "perfect," because it will still go through another draft with the HONR 495 professor, but by signing the signature page, the chair and committee members are saying that they are willing to *approve* the thesis and assign a letter grade. The Honors office will send out an electronic grade sheet the Monday after signatures are due on the previous Thursday.

Honors Thesis vs. Capstone Project

What follows is the result of a committee that has worked to clarify the relationship between the *Honors Thesis* and departmental *Capstone Project*.

Recommended policy for students who want to complete an overlapping Honors Thesis/Capstone Project:

1. Capstone Projects & Honors Theses may be based on similar topics and use similar research; some written portions of both documents may overlap.
2. Capstone Projects & Honors Theses may not be identical in their entirety.

- Should a student wish to have overlapping Capstone and Thesis projects, he or she should submit a query, and, if available a copy of the Capstone Project, to his or her instructor in HONR 495 – Senior Honors Thesis.

Thesis Format

The default format the thesis is APA Style, but other styles such as MLA or Turabian may be used if the student and thesis chair request it.

Thesis Timeline

Fall Junior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin selection of thesis chair by informal discussion of topics with professors and department chair
Spring Junior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January: select chair, topic and establish timeline February: select committee; discuss thesis proposal & their participation March 1: submit thesis proposal
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection and/or literature search Begin writing rough draft. Outline due to chair by September
Fall Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September: discuss data/progress with thesis chair, set up monthly meetings November: Final meeting with chair prior to the end of semester. Meet with committee members to update them on your progress and ask for feedback.

Thesis Submission

Once the Final Draft is approved by the HONR 495 professor, the student submits three copies to the Honors office on the good, 24-pound bond, water-marked paper to be hard bound: one copy is for the Honors office, the second copy is for the thesis chair (if he or she wants one), and third copy is for the student. Most students purchase this paper from [Staples](#).

Digital Commons

All students are encouraged to upload an electronic copy of their thesis to Digital Commons so that it can be published [online](#).

Guidelines for an Honors *Creative Project* to Satisfy Honors Thesis Requirement

A creative thesis must comprise the following elements:

Written Documentation of the Creative Project

The creative project must include at least fifteen pages of written documentation that undergirds the creative endeavor with scholarly research. The creative project may be based on visual and performing arts, film, or other projects; but it must be supported by written documentation with relevant research and analysis that describes the theory and methodology that drive the project's production, defines its targeted market, and argues for its stylistic effectiveness and competitive edge.

Format

Follow the thesis guidelines that are published in the HONR 495 course in BlackBoard.

Paper's Length

Instead of a 25-page scholarly paper, you will write a 15-page scholarly paper that follows the description above and includes the components below. It must integrate at least ten scholarly sources. This will be a part of your bound thesis for your creative project.

Scholarly Introduction

It should include the following documentation regarding the process behind your creative project:

- Creative theory specific to your discipline supported by scholarly research.
- Creative technique, strategy, and/or methodology supported by scholarly research.
- Analysis of your style
- Your targeted market

Summary of the Project not to exceed 250 words

Description/Presentation of the Creative Project

1. **Book:** Chapter-by-chapter synopses (3-5 sentences each) and a sample chapter(s) not to exceed 20 pp. unless by permission of the thesis chair and director.
2. **Play/Script/Film/Musical:** Acts and scenes synopses (3-5 sentences each) and a sample act or scene not to exceed 20 pages unless by permission of the thesis chair and director.
3. **Collection of Poetry and/or Short Stories** are not to exceed 20 pages unless by permission of the thesis chair and director.
4. **Other Creative Projects:** Photos of artwork if possible or if audio, a CD or DVD plus a paper pocket to be bound with your thesis to fit the disc.

Conclusion

- Your marketing plan (if relevant)
- Argumentation as to your anticipated success: What do you hope to achieve?
- Your project's competitive edge (if relevant): Against the competition, why should your project be published or produced?

Works Cited/Bibliography/References

- At least a dozen scholarly sources.
- If primary texts are used, ten secondary sources are required in addition.
- If Internet sources are used, ten scholarly sources from peer/refereed reviewed journals and books are required in addition.

Outstanding Thesis Award

At the end of the spring semester, an *Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis* plaque is given to the student who has the highest grade on his or her thesis. This award is normally presented during the departmental graduation ceremony.

PART FOUR: CONCLUDING COMMENTS

If current students have questions, please come by the Honors office to see the Dr. Nutter (JF Library 361C) or Mrs. Kline (JF Library 364). You are also welcome to call or email us if you have any questions or need clarification about anything relating to the Honors Program.

- honorsprogram@liberty.edu or jhnutter@liberty.edu
- 434-592-3304 (Honors office) or 434-592-3303 (Dr. Nutter's office)

When you finish your Honors thesis and graduate from our Honors Program, I trust you will say, like Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7).