

# HONORS GUIDELINES

## Honors

A student who has a GPA of 3.5 or higher in upper division courses will automatically graduate with honors (cum laude) and this will be reflected on the student's transcript and diploma. Post-baccalaureate students are not eligible to receive honors recognition.

## High and Highest Honors

Students who wish to graduate with high honors (magna cum laude) or highest honors (summa cum laude) must, in addition,

- (1) Have a major GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- (2) Enroll in LIN4905 Individual Study during at least one semester.
- (3) Complete LIN4970 Senior Thesis, in a following semester.
- (4) Write a senior thesis approved prior to graduation.

## Senior Thesis

### Is A Senior Thesis Appropriate For You?

A senior thesis is appropriate if a student is interested in learning more about a particular subject, wishes to gain research experience, and has at least a full year before graduation. For more information about whether a senior thesis is right for you, consult the UF Honors Program website (<http://www.honors.ufl.edu/current/research/>). Another helpful website to check out if you are having difficulty coming up with research ideas is the 'Research FAQs' page on the UF Department of Linguistics website (<https://lin.ufl.edu/faqs/>).

## Timing

Work culminating in an honors thesis generally requires two or more semesters. The student would ideally start planning for the thesis in his/her junior year by identifying an area of interest to him/her and selecting a faculty member who is willing to mentor the student on the project. A general guideline (given a Spring graduation) is that students conduct research during the summer between their junior/senior year, and during the first semester of their senior year. During the summer and the fall semester, the student registers for LIN 4905. The following semester (spring), the student registers for LIN 4970. This final semester will be dedicated to writing the thesis and having it approved.

### Funding

Students should consider applying for the University Scholar Program (<https://cur.aa.ufl.edu/university-scholars-program/>) or the CLAS Scholars Program (<https://clas.ufl.edu/undergraduate/clas-scholars/>), which provides funds for summer research. Deadlines for both programs are typically early-February.

## Paperwork and Due Dates

### Registration

A thesis project is a two or three semester project. In the first semester (in the case of a two-semester project), or first two semesters (in the case of a three-semester project), students are required to sign up for LIN 4905 (link on the UF Department of Linguistics website). To sign up, complete the form and submit it to the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator before the end of drop/add of the semester in question.

In the final semester of their senior thesis, students must sign up for LIN 4970 (link on the UF Department of Linguistics website). To sign up, they should submit the form on our website and submit it to the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator before the end of drop/add of the semester they intend to complete their senior thesis.

### Thesis Deadlines

Final copies of the thesis are due to the faculty advisor approximately one month before classes end. For Spring Term graduations, this equates to the beginning of April, while for Fall term graduations it equates to the beginning of November. Exact date should be agreed upon by the student and advisor well ahead of time. This will allow time for evaluation, revision, and approval (by the advisor and a second reader) in time for graduation.

The graded thesis, complete with any revisions required by the advisor and second reader, is due on or before the last day of classes. In addition, the following tasks should also be completed by the end of the semester:

- (1) The **advisor** should notify the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator with the final thesis designation (honors, high honors, or highest honors) at least two days before grades are due.
- (2) The **student** must complete the Honors Thesis submission form (link on the UF Department of Linguistics website), have it signed by their Honors Thesis advisor, and submit it to the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator at least two days before the end of exam week.
- (3) The **student** must submit the final graded PDF copy of their thesis to the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator at least two days before the end of exam week.

- (4) The **student** must submit a copy of their completed Senior Thesis to the UF Library. Information about how to submit the thesis can be found here (<https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=966329&p=7028773>)

## Mechanics

### Style

The thesis is to be written in a style appropriate for the discipline, for example LSA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style recommendations. It should be consistent throughout. Organization and content are to be determined in conjunction with the advisor. There is no specific length requirement but a recommendation is 30 pages.

### Content

The thesis must be work that is original to the student and that is written specifically for the senior thesis requirement.

## Evaluation Guidelines

Students who successfully complete a senior thesis are eligible for high and highest honors. The following criteria are used in evaluating the thesis:

- Mastery of the relevant academic literature
- Originality of the research
- Contribution of the thesis to the field
- Inherent quality of the work

Highest honors will generally only be given for theses that make a significant contribution to the field; the writing and research must be uniformly excellent and the results should be of near-publishable quality.

The faculty advisor has the primary responsibility for evaluating the thesis and determining if high/highest honors are appropriate. They will appoint a second person who will serve as a reader for the thesis. The advisor will determine the thesis grade in consultation with the reader. It is possible that students may complete a thesis and not obtain high or highest honors.

## More Information

For more information, please see the 'Senior Thesis' section under the 'Undergraduate Program' page on the UF Linguistics website or email the Linguistics undergraduate coordinator.