

Senior Honors Thesis Guidelines

Students wishing to write an honors thesis should have a GPA of at least 3.0 in all subjects and 3.3 in the Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies major.

The honors thesis allows you to synthesize readings and perspectives acquired during the course of an undergraduate education. For this reason, a well-chosen topic should extend your work already begun in a course or a sequence of courses taken before the senior year.

You should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) late in the spring of your junior year, **or very early in the fall of your senior year**, if you are considering enrolling in the yearlong honors thesis course. Among other things, the DUS can provide you with a list of potential faculty supervisors.

Only a faculty member in Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (FGSS), defined as a faculty member who regularly teaches courses cross-listed with FGSS, may approve the topic and supervise the thesis. Experience suggests that supervision works best when you have already taken a course from the faculty member and know his/her expectations and approach. The nature and extent of contact between you and the supervisor depends on mutual agreement. If there is more than one student in honors in a given year, the DUS will call occasional meetings of these students to allow them to exchange ideas about their work.

An honors thesis may take many forms, mutually agreed upon by you and the supervisor. In one common scenario, the student will write an essay of approximately fifty pages in length, drafted and revised in a series of carefully planned stages.

Timetables may vary, but the following deadlines have proved useful to other students in the past:

September 15	outline
October 15	bibliography
November 15	first chapter or subdivision
February 15	second chapter or subdivision
March 15	third chapter or subdivision
April 1	completed first draft
May 1	scheduled defense by this date
May 10	defense should take place no later than this date
May 15	final version of the thesis must be submitted to the supervisor, the second reader, and the DUS

All projects must be defended orally before an honors committee made up of your supervisor plus at least one other reader, selected by you in consultation with the supervisor and the DUS. The supervisor and the second reader will determine the final grade and the level of honors. All students receive a grade of "R" for the first semester's work.