

# Honors Thesis Information Sheet

- An Honors Thesis is required of all students in order to graduate from the Pforzheimer Honors College. The thesis may be completed during either the junior or senior year.
- The thesis must be a minimum of 25 pages (not including the abstract table of contents, images or appendices) unless an exception is granted by the Dean of the Honors College.
- The work is to be original and to be good enough to submit to a graduate school in the field as a sample of the student's best collegiate work.
- The thesis may be completed in any field, and it need not be in the student's major.
- It must be completed under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor in that field.
- Examples of acceptable topics include those that involve laboratory research (sciences); critical analysis of works of literature, philosophy or art (humanities); research using original sources or field work (social sciences, marketing); original programming (computer science); analysis of business practices, laws, or standards (accounting, finance, management); or a creative piece of work (art, poetry, theater).
- Students must obtain academic credit in some form for their thesis work. In order to do so, students can take one of a number of approaches. One option is to use a Springboard course in your thesis major (often called a Capstone course or Senior Seminar) which is designed to produce a thesis. However if there is no Springboard course in your thesis major, you may get credit for the thesis through an Independent Study course in that field or by taking HON 499. HON 499 is a one-credit course that is geared toward the Senior Thesis. The class focuses on research methods for all majors and disciplines. For more information, refer to the "List of Springboard Courses" form.
- The topic and scope of work acceptable require the approval of the Honors College Thesis Advisor and the Faculty Thesis Advisor.
- Students are expected to defend their thesis to their Faculty Thesis Advisor and a small audience, which may include include the Honors community, family, and friends, at a thesis presentation.