

Honors Degree in PNB Thesis Guidelines for Laboratory Research or Literature Review

Guidelines for Preparing an Honors Thesis in PNB

Register for PNB 4297W: Senior Research Thesis in Physiology and Neurobiology, the semester you plan to complete your thesis, which is usually your final semester. While conducting research prior to writing your thesis, most students enroll in either PNB 3296, PNB 4296, or the equivalent.

All research requires the consent of both your thesis advisor (e.g., the person supervising your research) and your honors advisor. There are two paths to completing an honors thesis:

1. Laboratory Research

A thesis based on hypothesis driven research in a PNB or related laboratory. If choosing this option, your thesis should be formatted and organized similar to a scientific journal research article in your particular field.

2. Literature Research

A thesis that synthesizes and expands on ideas found in published literature. If choosing this option, your thesis should be a hypothesis-driven piece of work, i.e. extraction and interpretation of data in the literature (as in a meta-analysis) to answer a specific question or test a hypothesis. It must be formatted and organized similar to a scientific journal research article.

According to university-wide policies for W courses, including PNB 4297W, your thesis must contain a minimum of 15-pages of *revised* writing, double-spaced, exclusive of tables, figures and references. Guidelines are detailed below. These guidelines may also be used for undergraduates writing a senior thesis outside of the Honors program.

Deadlines

Deadlines vary annually; specific deadlines are published in the January/February Honors Newsletter or can be obtained from the Honors Office, ROWE 419.

Also consult the honors website for updates

<https://honors.uconn.edu/thesis-project/>

<https://honors.uconn.edu/thesis-project/timeline/>

The Honors Program has two deadlines specifically related to the thesis. **In your final semester:**

- **End of 3rd week:** Honors Scholar Thesis Plan with thesis title and abstract and signatures of Honors Advisor and Thesis Supervisor
- **Last day of classes:** A thesis approved by your thesis supervisor and Honors advisor is due.
- **Extensions:** In some cases, you may get an extension providing your thesis supervisor and Honors advisor agree. See the [timeline for graduation](#) for more details.

At least one draft of the thesis must be given to your thesis advisor for comments. Several revisions may be required prior to final submission. It is your responsibility to establish due dates acceptable for the thesis advisor and your Honors advisor.

You are required to submit the final version of your thesis to the Honors office by the deadline set by the Honors Program.

Thesis Guidelines: Format

Please follow the format listed below. You can examine copies of Honors theses from prior student in Digital Commons.

1. **Approval or Title Page:** This page should include the Title of your thesis; your full name; signature lines for your thesis advisor, your Honors' advisor and any other thesis advisors, as appropriate; the department in which your thesis research was conducted and the date.
2. **Abstract:** The abstract should be about 250 words and placed on a separate page.
3. **Acknowledgment:** optional
4. **Table of Contents**
5. **List of Tables:** optional
6. **List of Figures:** optional
7. **Introduction**
8. **Material and Methods**
9. **Results:** This section may span several chapters.
10. **Discussion**
11. **Literature Cited:** The format should follow those used by scientific journal in your field. Many students find it helpful to use reference management software (e.g., endnote, mendeley, zotero) to manage in text citations and bibliographies.

For meta-analysis of published literature, sections 8-10 should be provided, with appropriate statistical analyses.

Spacing, Margins, Page Numbering and Figures/Tables

The thesis should be double-spaced with margins of 1 inch on the top, bottom, and left and right sides.

Pages should be numbered consecutively beginning with the approval page.

Electronic images and tables should be embedded within the text, rather than all grouped at the end.