

# Senior Honors Thesis Timeline

*It is recommended that all thesis students develop a timeline for completing their thesis before beginning the process. This timeline is a general breakdown for completion, but every thesis project will vary depending on the specifics of the research project.*

## First Semester

### Month of September

- Meet with thesis director to determine timeline for completion and to schedule **weekly meetings** throughout the two-semester project
- Begin working on literature review (background reading list)

### Month of October

- Continue background reading
- Draft 3-5 page paper on background readings
  - Should outline main arguments or topics in your field
  - Should associate specific authors with different positions
  - Might include your perspective on the debate
  - Might include your preliminary thesis statement
- Plan to meet with second reader and Honors Reader this month

### Month of November

- Continue researching and/or running experiments
  - write informally as you research; don't postpone the prewriting
  - separate out the writing tasks, so that you write the sections that do not depend on having results
- Revise your argument and thesis statement as you continue researching and writing

### Month of December

- Sort your research and notes
- **Establish central outline for your paper**
- Look for gaps in research and begin filling them
- Begin prewriting of middle sections of thesis

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## Second Semester

### Month of January

- Focused research and planning with thesis director
- Begin writing of middle sections
- Begin prewriting of introduction and conclusion

### Month of February

- Begin writing of introduction and conclusion
- Meet with second reader and Honors Reader this month
- **Complete first draft of thesis by end of month**

### Month of March

- Continue revising drafts of thesis
- **Final rough draft due to committee members by end of month**

### Month of April

- Schedule defense at beginning of month
- Prepare with thesis director for defense
- After defense, make revisions required by committee
- Once revisions have been made, take signature pages to thesis committee members to sign
- Make copies of thesis: dean's office needs three original copies and they will secure dean's signature for you; be sure to also make personal copies for yourself

### Month of May

- Final version of thesis due to college's dean's office