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) and research.

Plan to meet with second reader and Honors Reader this month.

Find out your college’s binding deadlines and procedures for binding process.

**Month of October**

Continue background reading and research.

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

**Month of November**

Continue researching and/or running experiments.
- Write informally as you research; don’t postpone the prewriting
- Separate out writing tasks, so that you write the sections that don’t 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
Meet with thesis director to revisit timeline for completion

Begin writing middle sections

Begin prewriting of introduction and conclusion

Meet with second reader and Honors Reader again this month

Month of February
Begin writing introduction and conclusion

Complete first draft of thesis by end of month

Month of March
Continue revising drafts of thesis with thesis director

Final rough draft due to committee members by end of month

Month of April
At beginning of month, schedule defense and check-in with representative from the dean’s office in your college about submitting your thesis for binding

Prepare with thesis director for defense

Defend thesis

After defense, make revisions required by committee

Once revisions have been made, take signature pages to thesis committee members to sign (if this did not take place at defense)

Schedule meeting with representative from your college to submit thesis for binding

Final version of thesis due to college’s dean’s office (some colleges have multiple deadlines)