**English Department Honors Program**

**Student information**

**General guidelines**

To graduate with departmental honors in English, an English major must complete both Junior-Senior Honors Seminars (ENG 4508 and 4509), receiving a grade of at least B in each class, and must complete and successfully defend the honors thesis (ENG 4510). For the English B.A. degree, the honors thesis serves as the capstone course (professional writing concentrators must also complete an internship).

An honors student wishing to write a thesis should first consult with the English Department's honors director, who will advise the student on registration procedures, setting up the thesis committee, and other preliminary matters.

The thesis committee includes the thesis director and two additional readers. If a student is completing departmental honors only, all committee members must be tenure-track faculty in the English Department. Students who are completing both departmental and University honors must have a director and one reader from the English tenure-track faculty and one faculty reader from a different academic department. Requests for exceptions to these committee guidelines will be considered on an individual basis by the Honors Director, the department Honors Committee, the thesis director, and/or the English Department chair.

By the first week of the semester in which a student plans to write the thesis, they must complete and submit the thesis application form, which requires the signature of the thesis director, the readers, the department honors director, and the English Department chair. A prospectus, or brief description of the project, must be attached to this form.

The thesis director and the student will establish a meeting schedule and timeline for completing the thesis.

Here is a suggested timeline for completing the thesis:

1st week of term: thesis application and prospectus written, signed, and turned

(or earlier) in to department honors director

8th week: full draft to thesis director

9th week: thesis director returns draft with comments

10th week: revisions to draft completed and approved by thesis director

11th week: complete revised draft to readers

(Second and third readers must be given adequate time – typically two weeks -- to read and respond to the draft and return a copy with comments for the student before the oral defense)

13th week: oral defense

14th week: final revisions completed

**Oral defense**

The thesis student is required to make an oral presentation and defense to the thesis committee. Typically, the writer explains the choice of subject, research methods, the progression of the project, and a final summary of findings. The writer then answers questions posed by members of the committee. The thesis director moderates the oral examination and assigns the final grade for ENG 4510. All members of the thesis committee must sign the [release form](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ndqmsc85zP5kWuK9vnLnlNXaHciaZmxK/view), either immediately after the oral defense or after all required changes have been made, as determined by the thesis director.

Honors thesis students may also present their research at the English Department's capstone day conference if they choose to do so.

**Turning in the thesis**

After the defense, the student should revise and format the thesis to suit their committee’s comments. When the finalized document is approved by the thesis director for submission, send both it and the release form via email to the departmental honors director (with the thesis director cc’d on the email).

The release form gives the option to archive the honors thesis electronically in the NC Docks digital repository. To order bound copies of the thesis for personal use, fill out the [payment form and instructions](https://honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis/submit/bound-copies) at the Honors College website.

**University honors students** should also follow all the [guidelines given by the Honors College.](https://honors.appstate.edu/academics/thesis)