What is an Honors Thesis?
The culmination of the Honors Bachelors degree, the Honors Thesis is a significant undergraduate research project completed under the supervision of a faculty member. Its purpose is to advance knowledge and understanding of a chosen topic and to further develop the student’s intellectual, professional and personal growth as a member of the Honors College. Thesis projects may take different forms in different majors – e.g. laboratory experiments, policy analyses, historical research, or artistic creations.

How long is an Honors Thesis?
There is no uniform required length for the Honors Thesis, which vary widely across different fields and topics. However, a range of 30-40 pages is common for the final manuscript. You can see examples of Honors Theses written by students in your major on the Honors College website.

How do I start an Honors Thesis?
First, choose a research topic/project and a faculty mentor. You should explore possibilities and opportunities, well before your final semester and perhaps with a few different faculty members, before deciding exactly what to do for your Honors Thesis. You do not have to have it all figured out before you ask a faculty mentor to meet with you to discuss.

- To find a mentor, think about instructors you have had classes with and/or who are studying topics you are interested in. Then, schedule an appointment to meet with them and ask them if they are willing to work with you and supervise your Honors Thesis project.

- The topic of your Honors Thesis may come from a research project of your chosen faculty mentor, your own idea based on coursework or class projects, UROP projects, community engaged learning experiences, or even internships. Instead of creating something brand new, perhaps think about how you can expand or finish something you may have already started to develop during your time as an undergraduate Honors student.

Once a topic and mentor are chosen, the required “Thesis Proposal Form” should be submitted to the Honors Faculty Advisor in your department, and then to the Honors College. They will provide you with a permission code to enroll in a course numbered 4999 within your major for the semester you will be most actively involved in doing the Honors Thesis project.

Who approves the Honors Thesis?
Once you and your faculty mentor are satisfied you have completed the project as proposed, submit a copy of your Honors Thesis (along with the standard title page signed by your faculty mentor) to the Honors Faculty Advisor in your department for approval. Then, submit a copy of the approved manuscript (with both signatures on the title page) to the Honors College at the University of Utah. All approvals must be completed prior to the final day of the semester in which you plan to graduate.

For more information and resources:

https://honors.utah.edu/course-planner-degree-requirements/thesis-information/
THE HSP HONORS THESIS

IN HSP, WE DO NOT HAVE A CORE SET OF FACULTY AS TRADITIONAL DEPARTMENTS DO. THIS MEANS THAT HSP STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE A FACULTY MENTOR FROM MOST ANY PART OF CAMPUS TO SUPERVISE THEIR THESIS PROJECT. IN HSP, WE ALSO DO NOT HAVE A STANDARD SET OF COURSES THAT EVERY STUDENT TAKES. THIS MEANS THAT THERE IS A LOT OF VARIATION IN WHAT AN HSP HONORS THESIS LOOKS LIKE. WE HAVE HAD STUDENTS DO VERY BIOMEDICAL PROJECTS WORKING WITH FACULTY IN SCIENCES OR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, FOR EXAMPLE. WE HAVE ALSO HAD STUDENTS DO MORE THEORETICAL, COMMUNITY-BASED, OR POLICY-ORIENTED PROJECTS WORKING WITH FACULTY FROM THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES.

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR THESIS PROJECT TO BE?

Schedule an appointment with the HSP Honors Faculty Advisor to:

♦ Discuss and brainstorm potential topics and faculty mentors

♦ Submit “Thesis Proposal” forms and to obtain permission codes/grades for HSP 4999

♦ Get final approval and signatures for your completed thesis

♦ Discuss how to do a thesis if you are a double major and want to get the Honors degree across both majors

HONORS FACULTY ADVISOR

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The “Getting Started” tab on the Office of Undergraduate Research is another great place to start thinking about your research opportunities www.our.utah.edu