



If you are interested in writing an honors thesis for the English major, then there are certain steps you should be taking early on. You will find them below, in a snapshot version and a more detailed version.

### Snapshot version:

- 1 Propose your thesis topic to a faculty member in the English Department **at least a year before** the submission deadline.
- 2 Develop your thesis over two semesters: one semester of Independent Study (ENG 4905) or Undergraduate Research in English (ENG 4911), and then one semester for Honors Thesis (ENG 4970).

### Detailed version:

If you plan to write an honors thesis, you should speak with a faculty member and pitch a possible topic at least a year before the submission deadline. (Submission deadlines tend to be in early August for summer graduates, early December for fall graduates, and mid-April for Spring graduates.) This would give you at least two semesters to research and write your thesis. You can then take one semester of Independent Study (ENG 4905) or Undergraduate Research in English (ENG 4911) prior to enrolling for Honors Thesis (ENG 4970). Many successful honors thesis students pursue this option. In order to do so you should propose the independent study to a faculty member in advance of the semester in which you wish to take it.

Act early. Faculty members may have caps on the numbers of thesis students they can take, and that cap may fill if you wait too long. In contacting a faculty member, think about the form of your thesis: will it be a creative project, a research paper, or other type of project? If you are pursuing a

creative project, define the media and genre — writing, comics, audio, or video, fiction or nonfiction, prose or verse, and so on. If you are developing a research paper, have a specific object of study in mind, whether that is a novel, a poem, a film, a theme, a theoretical question, or a dataset.

Different directors have different expectations about length, form, and style of supervision, but here are some general guidelines:

- 1. *Be proactive.*** The faculty member working with you will be your director, but the project is yours. A lot of what you do requires personal initiative. This begins with formulating your topic prior to contacting your director, and will continue to be the case as you pursue Independent Study/Undergraduate Research and then write your thesis.
- 2. *Start early.*** As noted above, it is a good idea to conduct a semester of research before writing your thesis. Use your second to last semester to do so. This will allow you to refine your topic, familiarize yourself with the material available on your topic, build and annotate a bibliography, and identify questions that your work will answer. During this semester consider writing a prospectus or concrete portion of the project (discuss this with your director). You should also write a description of the honors thesis, which is required for your advisor to sign before you can take ENG 4970.
- 3. *Keep ahead of the deadlines.*** In addition to the library's submission deadline, the English department and your director may have earlier deadlines that you should meet. During the semester when you are taking ENG 4970, your director may also set deadlines for pre-drafts and other assignments, which will allow them to assess your progress and make suggestions for revision.

For more information on the honors thesis, please visit

<https://english.ufl.edu/programs/undergraduate-programs/honors-for-the-english-major/>.