

# Honors Undergraduate Thesis

Nicholson School of  
Communications and Media

# Meet the Office of Honors Research (OHR) Staff



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# UCF Research Opportunities



## Summer Research Academy

Three-day course-event intro to research at UCF



## McNair/RAMP

Prep students for doctoral studies through individualized academic and personal support




## INTRO

Two semesters-workshops, seminars, peer support, one-on-one faculty advising



## Honors Undergraduate Thesis - HUT



The Honors Undergraduate Thesis (HUT) program allows undergraduates to engage in *original* and *independent* research or creative activity as principal investigators and scholars.

# Original Work? Independent?



**“Originality”** for the thesis means tackling a new research question or creative project or approaching an existing one in a novel way. It represents the student’s own insights rather than received ideas.



**“Independent”** research means the student takes the lead in the project, rather than having tasks assigned, and works with light oversight by a faculty member.

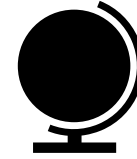
# The Honors Undergraduate Thesis

- Two- to four-semester program for juniors and seniors
- Open to **ALL** UCF students
  - Graduate with Honors distinction





Students **research, write, defend and publish** an original **Honors Thesis** in any discipline.



This thesis is **published** through the university library and is available to researchers **worldwide** through electronic databases.



# Honors Theses Global Readership Since 2015

## Nearly 724,000 Downloads Worldwide

*In November 2020, Honors Theses were downloaded over 27,000 times!*



<http://www.tinyurl.com/STARS-Honors-Undergrad-Theses>

as of 03/02/2021



# Eligibility Criteria

60 completed credits overall

12 completed upper-division (3000/4000 level) credits

3.4 or higher UCF or overall GPA

At least two semesters remaining prior to graduation

# What does HUT research look like?


Let's find out.


HUT research topics  
are as **diverse**  
and **remarkable**  
as the student body.




# A handful of recent examples!


## Theses from 2020

 [PDF](#) [Radio vs. Streaming Services: Exploring How Radio is Facing Competition](#), Kyra L. Allen

 [PDF](#) [Lights, Camera, Inaction: Relationship Management in the Film Industry Following Sexual Misconduct Accusations](#), Autumn Crouch


## Theses from 2019

 [PDF](#) [The Journey of the Entrepreneur](#), Francesca Archbold

 [PDF](#) [Don't Worry: A Personal Documentary of My Grandmother and an Exploration of Themes of Motherhood, Loneliness, and Later Life](#), Olivia A. Wilson

## Theses from 2018

 [PDF](#) [Storms Named After People](#), Sarah E. Ballard

 [PDF](#) [Understanding News Media Viewing and Selection Patterns: FoMO and User Consumption of News Content on Social Media Interfaces](#), Nicolette D. Christopher

# Quick Thoughts:

The thesis does not need to be a huge, groundbreaking research project; a smaller project is enough to demonstrate a student's mastery of his or her discipline and a capacity for independent work.

# Honors Undergraduate Thesis Options

*Be creative! Think outside the box!*

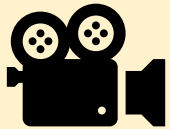
## Honors in the Major Thesis

- Students complete original research or creative work in their major

## Honors Interdisciplinary Thesis

- Students complete original research or creative work in their minor or in a discipline other than their major

# Creative Option for NSCM Students



1. Create a short film, documentary, advertising campaign, etc. to use as a **basis** for an Honors thesis



2. Petition your HUT faculty liaison about using the project for your Honors Thesis



3. Write a critical analysis about the:

- creative process, techniques used
- theories behind the work
- goals you set out to accomplish

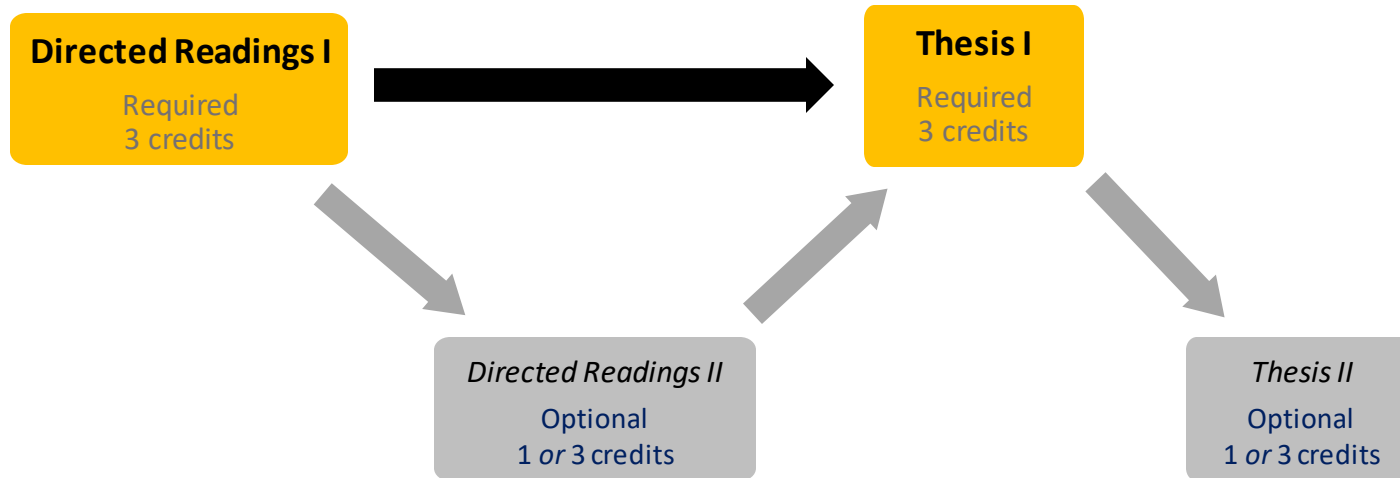
# How is HUT structured?

Let's go over program steps.





# Traditional Honors Thesis Course Flow



HUT is a credit-bearing program: minimum two-semester, six credit-hour sequence. These courses will appear on your transcript.

OHR is willing to consider alternatives to the traditional route to a thesis, e.g. another course to substitute for Directed Readings

HUT coursework may be used towards major requirements. Ask your advisor about counting Thesis I as an elective.

**UH Students:** Thesis I can be used towards your Honors requirements.

# Directed Readings Substitutes for NSCM Students

- COM 3800 - Conflict Communication Research Methods
- COM 3311 - Communication Research Methods
- MMC 3420 - Mass Media Research Methods
- FIL 3401 - Research Methods for Filmmaking

# Thesis Chair Eligibility

**Tenured  
or tenure-  
track**

Titles: Assistant/Associate/Full **Professor**

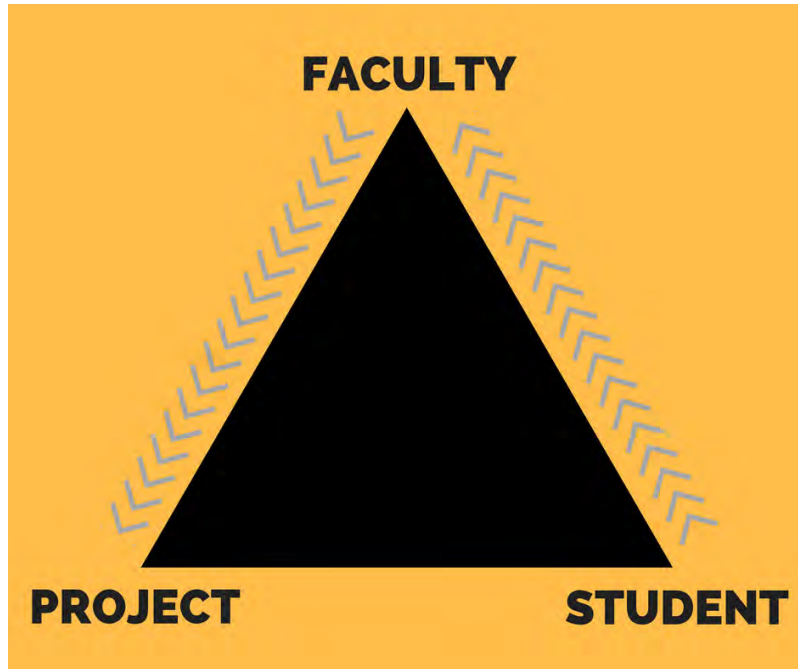
**Lecturer**

*Non-tenure-track faculty must possess a terminal degree in their discipline\* and be a subject matter expert in the discipline in which the student intends to write a thesis*

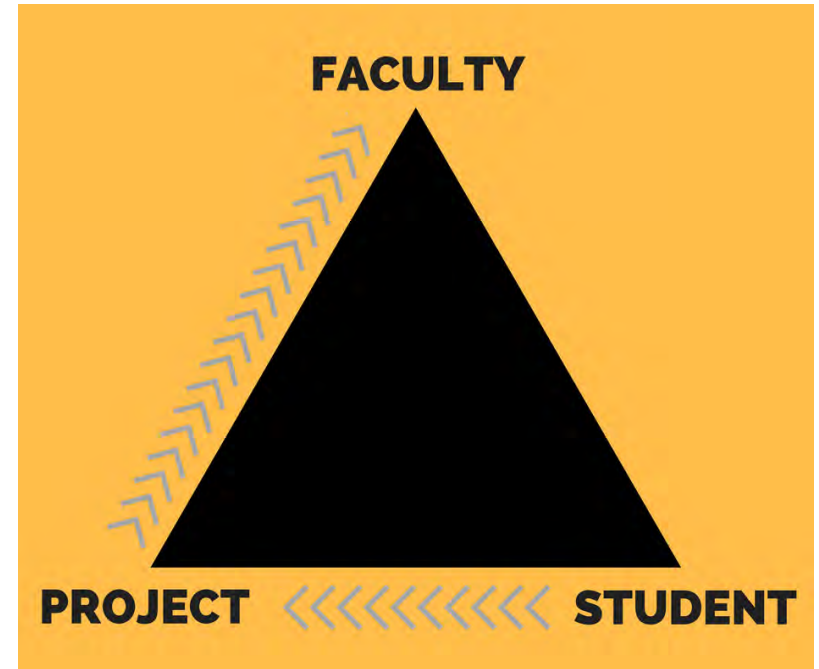
*\*Exceptions may apply to departments or colleges with specific agreements with the Burnett Honors College.*

# Ways students approach faculty

Path #1



Path #2



You must have a faculty mentor to start a project!

**Why** should you  
consider doing an  
Honors Thesis?

# Program Benefits

Earn *Honors Distinction* on diploma and transcript

Earn upper level research credit (xxx4903H & xxx4970H)

Be part of the Burnett Honors College

- Community of talented peers
- Premier access to events
- FREE printing!
- Honors Thesis & **ALL** Honors Scholarships
- Enroll in Honors courses on a space-available basis & seminars
- Reduced-cost Poster Printing
- UCF-affiliated housing for Honors students

Personal, intellectual & professional growth

Prepare for job market, graduate school

# How do I get started?

With a few, simple steps.

# Next Steps



## Submit the HUT Eligibility Form:

Summer 2021 deadline: April 16th

Fall 2021 deadline: July 30th

<https://tinyurl.com/HUT-APPLY>



## After notification of eligibility:

- Find a thesis chair who qualifies and is a subject matter expert
- Meet with one of our peer advisors to discuss any questions or concerns
- Speak with an academic advisor to see how HUT will fit into your graduation plan
- Complete and submit the Admission Agreement and Registration Form\*

*Eligible students will receive an admission agreement and registration form via email.*

*The registration form will require the signature of your selected **Thesis Chair** and the **HUT Liaison** in your thesis discipline's College/department.*





Please reach out to  
**The Office of Honors Research**  
at [HonorsResearch@ucf.edu](mailto:HonorsResearch@ucf.edu)  
with questions or to submit forms!

**[Honors.ucf.edu/research](https://honors.ucf.edu/research)**

NOTE: The Office of Honors Research is open for in-person services this Spring 2021 semester, although the submission of all program forms and meetings with students will continue to be virtual. All communications with the Office of Honors Research should be through the [Request for Contact Form](#) or email at [HonorsResearch@ucf.edu](mailto:HonorsResearch@ucf.edu).

