Honors Thesis/Project Overview

**The Honors Thesis or Project** provides the culminating experience of a Commonwealth Honors College student's academic life and is designed to provide Honors College seniors with an opportunity to integrate their undergraduate experiences while preparing for their intended career paths. Whether you choose to design an individually contracted honors thesis or project with an instructor, or participate with other students in a faculty-taught thesis or project seminar, you will have an opportunity to conduct in-depth scholarly research under the guidance of an experienced faculty mentor and with the support of the College's Research Literacy. For complete information, see the [Honors Thesis or Project](https://www.honors.umass.edu) section of our website.

**Honors Thesis/Project Seminar**

Honors Thesis/Project seminars, like their Honors Thesis/Project-individually contracted counterparts, require major scholarly undertakings and a final research manuscript. In lieu of an oral defense, most Honors Thesis/Project seminars include a presentation to course members, the instructor, or both. [More Information](https://www.honors.umass.edu/courses/thesis-or-project)

**Independent Honors Thesis or Project**

A self-initiated Honors Thesis or Project affords students the opportunity to focus intensively on an issue or problem of special interest to them, arising out of their major study or across two or more disciplines. Students pursue research and scholarly, scientific, or creative work under the supervision of a faculty Honors Thesis or Project "guidance committee." Their efforts culminate in the production and presentation of the student's own substantial thesis or project manuscript (for example: screenplay, collection of original poetry, musical score, engineering design, or marketing case study). Honors Thesis and Projects require an approved registration contract, proposal, and guidance committee. They terminate in an oral defense. [More Information](https://www.honors.umass.edu/courses/thesis-or-project)

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