Senior Thesis/Project: We’ll get you there

The Thesis/Project Proposal

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and current thesis students
Why do a thesis or project?

What is a thesis and what is a project?

The process and the timeline
Proposal for Individually Contracted option?

- **Source:** [https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience-independent-capstone-proposal](https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience-independent-capstone-proposal)

- **Basics:** A proposal is required for each semester of the thesis or project (499Y and/or 499T/P) that is individually contracted.

- **Both semester proposals** have to be submitted on PATHS and approved by the faculty sponsor, the department Honors Program Director and the CHC Academic Standards Committee.
Deadlines for proposal submission on PATHS

- For Fall 2017 semester the deadline for student submissions is August 15\textsuperscript{th}.

The deadline for all faculty approvals, including the faculty sponsor, the HPD and approval for a credit overload, are due on Paths by midnight on the first Thursday of class, or September 7\textsuperscript{th}.

However, students are strongly encouraged to work with the faculty sponsor this semester and submit a proposal before the end of the Spring 2016 semester. This will avoid delays in approvals and registration in September.
Thesis or project proposal part 1: Contents

- Statement of the goal of the thesis or project
- Key readings
- Communication with the committee chair
- Specialized training (especially human/animal subjects training)
- Methodology

If the research is only starting later in the 499Y semester, the part 1 proposal must contain a deadline by which a methodology will be established. The methodology then must be in the part 2 proposal (499T/499P).
Thesis or project proposal part 1: Contents

- **Timeline**: deadline dates and specific expectations for assignments and selection of a second committee member
Thesis or project proposal part 2: Contents

- Use the following sub-headings for the proposal submitted on PATHS (more on the specifics of these sections in future workshops)

  Introduction: What are you researching and why
  Review of the literature: What have others written/published on your topic?
  Methodology: How are you conducting your research?
Thesis or project proposal part 2: Contents

- **Evaluation:** How will the work be evaluated and graded?

- **Communication:** Be specific about the expectations concerning meetings with committee chair and other member(s).

- **Timeline:** Dates and expectations for review of research and specific deadlines for first draft, second draft, final completed manuscript and artifact.
Thesis or project proposal part 2: Deadlines

- The deadline for the part 2 student submission on PATHS is the end of the Fall 2017 semester (December 22 is the last day of final exams).

- The deadline on PATHS for the faculty approvals and approval for credit overload if necessary is midnight on the Thursday of the first week of classes in the Spring 2017 semester (January 25, 2017)
The proposal will be completed in the first semester of the typical two semester thesis seminar.

The topics to be covered in the proposal are similar to those for the independent study format for the thesis.

However, the specifics will be determined by the faculty member teaching each seminar.
Thesis or project proposal in a seminar format

- Note that this is a course that you sign up for in SPIRE. PATHS is not used for the thesis or project done in the seminar format.

- The specific deadlines for work in the seminar are determined by the faculty member teaching the seminar.

- The final product of the seminar in the Fall 2017 semester is a full proposal for the thesis or project.