



## Honors Research Thesis

Students enrolled in the Honors Program in Public Health may choose to graduate with *honors research distinction* in Public Health. To be eligible for honors research distinction, a student must complete the six honors course requirement and an honors thesis.

### ***Honors Thesis Requirements***

The honors thesis is completed under the mentorship of a faculty advisor who will guide the student through the process. Students must identify an advisor and a research topic well in advance of the graduation semester. Generally, this would be at least three semesters prior to graduation. Students must also choose a second faculty member to serve as the second reader of the thesis. At least one honors thesis committee member must have a primary appointment in the College of Public Health.

The specific requirements for the *honors research distinction* at graduation are the following:

- Submit the Application for Graduation with Honors Research Distinction at least two semesters before graduation.
- Complete PUBHLTH 3180E – 1 credit hour.
- Complete 2 credit hours of PUBHLTH 4999.01H - Research credit in Public Health.
- Successfully defend the thesis during a one-hour oral examination.
- Meet all of the College-specific degree requirements, as well as all of the honors program requirements.
- Graduate with a minimum 3.4 cumulative grade point average on at least 60 graded Ohio State credit hours.

### ***Honors Thesis Work***

The faculty advisor is responsible for overseeing the honors thesis project. Prior to beginning the thesis project, the student and faculty member should establish guidelines for frequency of meeting, submission of preliminary drafts, and deadlines for submitting work. The faculty advisor should also indicate how long he/she will take to review drafts. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in termination of the project.

If the faculty member will be absent during any part of the project, s/he must appoint another faculty member to supervise the project during that period, and the Honors Co-Directors should be notified of this arrangement. If the student will be conducting research off campus, the student and faculty member should devise mutually acceptable guidelines for maintaining contact and reporting progress. In some cases, this might include the designation of an "on-

site" advisor, and the Honors Co-Directors should be informed of these arrangements. The project advisor also should inform the student if it appears that his/her research will require approval of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human subjects research or approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (ILACUC) for animal subjects research.

### ***Written Thesis and Oral Defense***

At any point, if it appears that the work on the honors thesis is not of superior quality to qualify for graduation with honors research distinction, the student and faculty member may agree to continue the project as regular independent study or to terminate the project. The Honors Co-Directors must be notified of the decision not to complete the project for graduation with honors research distinction. If the project is not completed, the faculty advisor may still judge that sufficient work has been done to merit a grade of "S" in the 4999.01H course hours.

Students will typically complete and defend the honors thesis during the semester in which the student graduates, but earlier dates are acceptable as well. When the faculty member determines that the project is complete, the student must schedule the one-hour exam and reserve a room and computer for the meeting. All members of the committee must be present at the oral examination (video-conferencing is allowed if necessary).

The faculty member should inform the student well in advance of his/her expectations for the oral examination. While there is no single required format for the oral defense, the Public Health Honors Committee encourages examining committees to consider more than just asking the student to review the thesis. Thus, committee members should consider asking students questions that would require them to critically think about their research project or to draw on material taught in courses.

After satisfactory completion of the oral examination, the examining committee will sign the appropriate form, indicating that the student qualifies for graduation with honors research distinction. The certification form must be returned by the specified date (dates for each semester will be posted on the CPH website) to the Office of Academic Programs and Student Services.

***Final Thesis Copy***

Deadline: The thesis must be submitted electronically to the University Libraries' Knowledge Bank no later than the last day of final examination week of the semester in which the student will graduate.

Manuscript Format: The Public Health Honors Committee does not require any particular manuscript format and leaves that decision to the faculty advisor, who is familiar with the practices of the discipline. However, the following is suggested for the title page:

How can injury prevention interventions reduce the risk of sports-related concussions?

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Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for graduation  
"with Honors Research Distinction in Public Health" in the undergraduate colleges of The Ohio  
State University

by  
Jane Doe

The Ohio State University  
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Project Advisor: Professor John Smith, College of Public Health