

## Honors Guidelines for Linguistics Majors

### *Honors requirements*

**Honors:** A student who has a GPA of 3.5 or better in upper division courses (> 3999) will automatically graduate with honors (*cum laude*) and that fact will be indicated on the student's transcript and diploma. Post-baccalaureate students are not eligible to receive honors recognition.

**High and Highest Honors:** Students who wish to graduate with high honors (*magna cum laude*) or highest honors (*summa cum laude*) must, in addition to having the required GPA, write an honors thesis, which must be submitted and approved prior to graduation.

### *Timing*

A senior thesis is appropriate if a student is interested in learning more about a particular subject, wishes to gain research experience, and has at least a full year before graduation. For more information about whether a senior thesis is right for you, consult the Honors Program website (<http://www.honors.ufl.edu/research.html>) and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences guide to honors theses (<http://www.cals.ufl.edu/documents/honorsThesisGuidelines.pdf>).

Work culminating in an honors thesis generally requires two or more semesters. The student should start planning for the thesis in his/her junior year by identifying an area of interest to him/her and finding a faculty member who is willing to mentor the student in the project. The student should consider applying for the University Scholar Program, which provides funds for summer research (<http://www.scholars.ufl.edu>). A general guideline is that the research will be conducted during the summer between the student's junior/senior year and the first semester of the senior year. The final semester will be dedicated to writing the thesis and getting it approved.

Final copies of the thesis are due to the faculty supervisor the first week of April (approximately one month before classes end for non-Spring term graduation) to allow for approval and evaluation in time for graduation. Two copies of the final thesis are required. One copy, including the abstract, must be delivered to the graduation coordinator in the Academic Advising Center (AAC) by the last day of classes for the term of graduation. This copy need not be bound, as it will be microfilmed for the University Library. The second copy is to be given to your thesis advisor. The thesis must be accompanied by the Honors Thesis Submission Form available at <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/forms/thesis.pdf>, which must be filled out by computer or typewriter. It may not be handwritten.

**course work:** Honors candidates must register for two semesters of work, not including summer terms. The student must sign up for up to three credits of LIN 4905 Independent Study followed by up to three credits of LIN 4970 Senior Thesis under the direction of the student's thesis advisor. These will normally be taken in the student's senior year. These two courses do not count towards the linguistics major electives. They must be done over and above the required coursework for the major.

### ***Evaluation Guidelines***

Students who successfully complete a senior thesis are eligible for high and highest honors. The following criteria are used in evaluating the thesis: mastery of the relevant academic literature, originality of the research, contribution of the thesis to the field, and inherent quality of the work. Highest honors will generally only be given for theses that make a significant contribution to the field; the writing and research must be uniformly excellent and the results should be of near-publishable quality.

The faculty supervisor has the primary responsibility for evaluating the thesis and determining if high/highest honors are appropriate. S/he will appoint a second person who will serve as a reader for the thesis. The supervisor will determine the thesis grade in consultation with the reader. It is possible that students may complete a thesis and not obtain high or highest honors.

### ***Mechanics***

**Style:** The thesis is to be written in a style appropriate for the discipline, for example LSA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style recommendations. It should be consistent throughout. Organization and content are to be determined in conjunction with the supervisor. There is no specific length requirement but a recommendation is 30 pages.

**Content:** The thesis must be work that is original to the student and that is written specifically for the senior thesis requirement.

Further information is available at <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/upperdivisionhonors.html>.