

HSC 4970 – Senior Honors Thesis

All PHHP Honors students must complete a Senior Honors Thesis as the final paper requirement for HSC 4970 in partial fulfillment of their honors requirements. The paper must be approved first by students' research mentors and then by the dean's office to graduate with honors.

Please check all due dates on the Honors Thesis (HSC 4970) Canvas page and Honors Program Website. Papers will not be accepted past the deadlines noted. Honors students must fulfill all other honors requirements in addition to completing an acceptable executive summary to graduate magna cum laude (high honors) or summa cum laude (highest honors).

Executive Summary Formatting Requirements:

- Maximum of 7 pages text;
- Page limit does not include the title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, or other documents included in the Appendix
- All text is double spaced
- 1-inch margins
- 11-point font
- Times New Roman font
- Following APA 7th Edition (2019)

Required Components with suggested page lengths:

- Student Title Page
 - Includes title, student name, mentor name, affiliation, course code (HSC4970), and thesis submission date
- Abstract
 - 200-250 words
 - Start on new page (page 2)
- Introduction (Literature Review)
 - Approximately 2 pages
 - Thesis study background information, including importance, interest, and originality of your research project
 - Demonstrate why there needs to be further research on your topic
 - Reference all major points with primary sources (APA in-text citations). Secondary sources are not acceptable if the primary sources are still in print.
- Aim and Hypotheses
 - 1-2 paragraphs
 - Provide numbered/bulleted statements of your specific aims (what you aim to accomplish with your study) and your hypotheses
 - Include Aims and Hypotheses in the final subsection of the introduction
- Method
 - 1-2 pages
 - Describe your applicable participants, procedures, questionnaires, and apparatus (e.g., equipment, treatment)
 - Describe your independent and dependent measures
 - Include statement about IRB and/or IACUC approval where applicable
- Results
 - 1 to 1 ½ pages
 - Organize and present quantitative and/or qualitative analyses that correspond to your specific listed aims/hypotheses
 - Do not include your interpretation of results in this section
 - Using APA style, refer to tables and figures by their titles (e.g., Figure 1, Table 1). Include actual tables and figures in an Appendix following Reference List.

- Discussion
 - 1 to 1 ½ pages
 - Interpret your results with a focus on the meaningfulness and implications of the results
 - Refer back to the literature that motivated the research; which findings were consistent with your hypotheses and the existing literature? Which findings were inconsistent with your expectations, and why do you think these results occurred?
 - Include a brief presentation of the limitations to interpreting the results
 - Describe potential next steps for advancing your research area
 - Do not take up discussion space by simply repeating the results. Only include interpretations of results presented in your results section (i.e., do not describe results here unless you have listed statistical findings in the Results section).
- Reference List
 - Unlimited page length
 - Follow APA 7th Edition formatting
 - Start reference list on new page after Discussion section
 - Page is titled “References,” centered and in bold
 - Reference primary sources only
- Appendix (optional)
 - Appendix can include tables, figures, questionnaires, interviews, qualitative data, etc.
 - Start Appendix on a new page following your Reference List
 - Start each separate table, figure, questionnaire, interview, etc. on a separate page

Writing Quality: The paper should be written clearly and concisely, without spelling or typographical errors, and be well organized. Please remember that the quality of the paper needs to reflect the distinction of magna or summa cum laude. Your document should be fully spell-checked both by a word processor and by hand. Students will be required to rewrite or revise their papers if they are not correctly formatted or if the quality of writing is problematic.

Regarding bias-free language, note the following:

- Please follow [APA’s General Principles for Reducing Bias](https://www.apa.org/about/apa/equity-diversity-inclusion/language-guidelines.pdf) as part of APA’s Inclusive Language Guidelines and discuss with your mentor appropriate participant descriptions for your discipline.
American Psychological Association. (2021). *Inclusive language guidelines*. <https://www.apa.org/about/apa/equity-diversity-inclusion/language-guidelines.pdf>