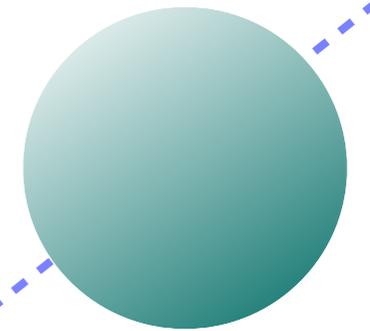


Preparing Early for Your Honors Thesis



A Path to Success: Long-Term Thesis Prep

AOK: You will learn the concept of Thesis & Interdisciplinary Study. You may apply for an **Honors Travel Course** to start exploring your global experience!

Determine **Research Track** and look for research/ internship opportunities. Apply for an **Honors Travel Course** if you are interested in integrating some global aspects into your thesis!

Summer Opportunities: for Research/Internship/Community Engagement/Global Experiences

Your summer experiences can enrich your Honors Thesis and potentially lead to a unique thesis project. Use these opportunities to start building your research skills, making connections with faculty, and exploring creative research ideas. Some projects/chairs (e.g., science-lab based) might require you to have prior research experiences BEFORE taking Thesis I.

- 1 Look for summer (or future) research opportunities early.
- 2 Start organizing a list of prospective thesis chairs and check to see if you need prior research/lab experiences.
- 3 You could integrate the summer experiences into your thesis project. It is also a good idea to start working on your Thesis II.

Thesis II Submissions:

- Draft Thesis (WK 7)
- Final Thesis (WK 11)
- Final Portfolio (WK 14)

You will complete **EVERYTHING** (analysis, writing, etc.), and submit your Final Thesis. Note that the final submission is early, therefore, the more you work during Thesis I and over the break, the easier completing Thesis II will be.

Thesis II

Thesis I

Thesis I Submissions:

- Confirm Thesis Chair (WK 5)
- Draft Prospectus (WK 9)
- Final Prospectus (WK 12)

You will confirm your chair and complete a Prospectus including Introduction, Literature Review, Outline, and Work Schedule. And, start working on your project! Your thesis chair may not be available in the summer.

Thesis I Prep Time: Start meeting with your prospective thesis chairs—ideally, you would want to find your chair **before** registering for the course.

****Important!**—If your project requires **IRB approval (for Human Subject Research)**, take Thesis I in the **spring** and submit the application before summer in order to start Thesis II in the fall on time—typically, a winter break is too short for this process!

***Waiting for IRB approval, if needed.*

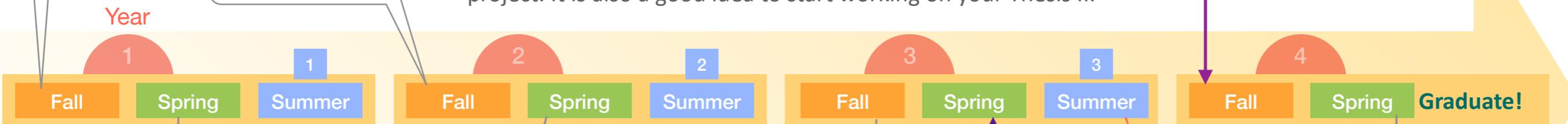
Ideally, your program of study includes one or more research related courses.

Optional Course: IDS 2912 (Undergraduate Research Experience)

Start investigating your **prospective Thesis Chairs**, esp. if you have a specific topic as it may take a while to find a chair who works with that area. If you have no idea where to start, you can contact Honors Thesis Director or Honors faculty to brainstorm some ideas. You can also work with your honors advisor.

Start thinking about **Research Track** options: Check to see if there is an Honors Thesis program (e.g., Psychology) in your department and look for future research opportunities.

Thesis Roadmap



Ideally, you would want to save this semester for an emergency in order for you to graduate as planned—**you will need to receive the final grade on time (BEFORE Honors Graduation).**

My Thesis Roadmap: Worksheet

Year 1:

- Overall Academic Goals:
- Other Opportunities:
 - Research/Lab Experience
 - Internship
 - Community Engagement
 - Study Abroad
 - Student Clubs/Organizations
 - Research Conference (attendance)
 - REUS or SURF Applications

Thesis Prep:

Summer 1

Year 3:

- Overall Academic Goals:
- Other Opportunities:
 - Research/Lab Experience
 - Internship
 - Community Engagement
 - Study or Research Abroad
 - Optional IDS 2912 (0 credits)
 - Research Conference (presentation)
 - REUS or SURF Applications

Thesis Prep:

Summer 3

1

1

Fall

Spring

Summer

2

Fall

Spring

Summer

3

3

Fall

Spring

Summer

Fall

Spring

2

Thesis or Capstone

4

Year 2:

- Overall Academic Goals:
- Other Opportunities:
 - Research/Lab Experience
 - Internship
 - Community Engagement
 - Study or Research Abroad
 - Optional IDS 2912 (0 credits)
 - Research Conference (attendance)
 - REUS or SURF Applications

Thesis Prep:

Summer 2

Year 4:

Future Plans (e.g., Grad./Med. School Applications)

Honors Thesis Info: <https://www.usf.edu/honors/accelerated-programs/honorsthesisresearchtrack.aspx>

What Can I do to Start Preparing? - Strategies & Resources

✓ Understand what “Research” is

USF Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR):

<https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/>

- Undergraduate Research Society at USF: <https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-students/undergraduate-research-society.aspx>
- OUR Programs: <https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-programs/index.aspx>
- Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Resources, & Opportunities: <https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-students/index.aspx>
- Events & Workshops: <https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-events/index.aspx>

“Explore ideas for your research project early and talk with faculty, advisors, friends, etc. about your ideas to brainstorm!”

✓ Interested in Global Experience & National Scholarships?

USF Office of National Scholarships: <https://www.usf.edu/ons/>

- Internships: <https://www.usf.edu/ons/first-steps/internships.aspx>

USF Global Citizens Project: <https://www.usf.edu/gcp/>

- Operation - Global Action: <https://orgsync.com/157674/chapter>

“Build connections through on/off campus activities, volunteering, internship & global experiences!”

✓ How about Experiential Learning & Community Engagement?

USF Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships: <https://www.usf.edu/engagement/>

USF Experiential Learning: <https://www.usf.edu/engagement/students/experiential-learning-programs.aspx#UndergraduateStudies>

USF Honors Faculty: <https://www.usf.edu/honors/about-us/honors-staff.aspx>

What Can I do to Start Preparing? - Strategies & Resources

✓ Search **Research Opportunities**: Examples below

***Be sure to check the website and ask your advisor and faculty in your department!*

- OUR On Campus Research Opportunities: <https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-students/opportunities.aspx>
- Morsani College of Medicine Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences: https://health.usf.edu/medicine/psychiatry/research/research_opportunities
- College of Behavioral and Community Sciences: <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/undergraduate/research-opportunities.aspx>
- College of Public Health: <https://health.usf.edu/publichealth/ghidr/genomics/undergrad-research-opp> or <https://health.usf.edu/publichealth/ghidr/ghidr-research-opp>
- Department of Sociology: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/sociology/academic-programs/undergraduate/research-opportunities.aspx>
- Institute for Research in Art: <http://ira.usf.edu/index.html>

✓ Build your **Research Skills**

USF Library: <https://lib.usf.edu/>

- Workshops & Video Tutorials: <https://lib.usf.edu/tutorials-and-workshops/videos/>
- Citing Sources & Citation Managers: <https://guides.lib.usf.edu/citingsources>
- Digital Media Commons - Tutorials: <https://lib.usf.edu/dmc/tutorials/>

OUR Fundamentals of Academic Research

<https://www.usf.edu/undergrad/undergraduate-research/ur-programs/fundamentals-of-academic-research.aspx>

Thesis Preparation Workshop (Purdue):

<https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/c.php?g=379864&p=2572414>

*“As you can see from the Thesis I schedule, the first month is packed with quick activities. Therefore, an **Annotated Bibliography** or **Literature Review** is something you can easily start in advance—this exercise will expose you to different types of research, current research trends, creative project ideas, historical information, statistics, etc. It is also good to hone your academic writing and creative skills.”*