

## Why Write a Thesis and Take Undergraduate Honors in English?

The centerpiece of this program is the Honors Thesis. Writing a critical, creative, or professional writing project may well be the most rewarding experience of an undergraduate career. The Honors Thesis affords you the opportunity to work closely with a faculty advisor to pursue a special topic of interest with a greater depth and intensity than is usually possible in regular coursework. The research, reflection, and writing involved in producing the Honors Thesis is good preparation for graduate and professional school as well as for writing in the workplace.

If you intend to pursue graduate study in English, the Honors Thesis provides you with an introduction to graduate thesis writing, and, in some cases, may lay the groundwork for a graduate writing project. The Honors Thesis can also help improve your competitiveness when applying to graduate and professional schools.

For those entering the job market, the Honors Thesis serves as an excellent presentation to prospective employers, and it shows that you have the critical,

creative, and research abilities necessary to succeed in the workplace.

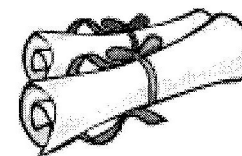
Those entering the job market demonstrate, through the honors thesis, their ability to design, execute, analyze, and present large projects.

Finally, the successful completion of Undergraduate Honors in English demonstrates that the candidate is not only an exceptional student with a strong commitment to excellence, but that she or he can take initiative on a focused project, meet departmental deadlines, and work cooperatively with both faculty and other students.

A final note: Successful candidates receive the distinction of *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* in English. The Undergraduate Committee with the recommendation of your faculty advisor sets the level of honors that will appear on your diploma. Though most candidates receive some level of honors, some do not; thus it is important that you work steadily on your project and consult frequently with your faculty advisor.

**For specific questions, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English at 277-5576 or visit the Undergraduate English Office in Humanities 223. You may also visit our website, [www.unm.edu/~english](http://www.unm.edu/~english).**

## Undergraduate Honors in English



The University of New Mexico

Department of English Language and Literature

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## Eligibility for Departmental Honors in English

You must have:

1. **A 3.2 cumulative GPA** based on at least 75 hours of college credit, including a minimum of 9 hours of credit in English courses numbered 200 and above.
2. **A 3.5 GPA in English courses at UNM** based on at least 9 hours of courses taken in English at UNM numbered 200 and above.
3. **A letter of recommendation** from a regular faculty member from the Department of English. (Ideally the letter would be from the faculty member you will ask to direct your thesis project.)

## Requirements for Receiving Departmental Honors in English

You must:

1. **Complete English 412 Capstone Course.** A special seminar designed for honors student in English; topics vary each semester. This course counts towards the required 400 level hours.
2. **Enroll in English 497, Individual Study, in the first semester of your senior year, in order to complete a Prospectus for approval by the Undergraduate Committee.** You must submit the prospectus, an overview of your thesis, to the Undergraduate Committee **no later than the end of the sixth week** in the first semester of your senior year. See posted deadlines. Sign up with your faculty advisor for English 497, Individual Study, to complete the prospectus and begin drafting your thesis. This course does not count toward the required 400 level hours.

3. **Enroll in English 490, Senior Honors Thesis, in the last semester of your senior year, in order to complete an Honors Thesis for approval by the Undergraduate Committee.** The thesis, a 30 to 50-page critical essay, creative project, or professional writing project, **MUST** be submitted to the Undergraduate Committee **no later than the end of the tenth week** of the last semester of your senior year. See posted deadlines. All theses must follow the Honors Thesis Guidelines. To write the thesis, enroll in English 490, Senior Honors Thesis, with your faculty advisor. This course counts towards the required 400 level hours.

**For deadlines, guidelines, and announcements about Honors consult the Honors/Sigma Tau Delta bulletin board outside Humanities 223 or visit our departmental website at [www.unm.edu/~english](http://www.unm.edu/~english).**