

Honors Programs and Graduation with Honors at the University of Florida

1. UF Honors Program

This is for lower-division students only. Students are invited to participate as entering freshman based on high school GPA and SAT or ACT scores. For more information see: <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/>

2. Graduating with Honors

The University of Florida offers three levels of honors at graduation: *cum laude* (honors), *magna cum laude* (high honors), and *summa cum laude* (highest honors). Students should check with an academic adviser for complete details. (For College-specific requirements see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/graduating-with-honors.aspx>)

All students with an upper division GPA of 3.5 graduate with honors (*Cum Laude*). To graduate *magna cum laude* (high honors) or *summa cum laude* (highest honors), students must complete an honors thesis and have an upper division GPA of 3.75 and 3.85, respectively. The thesis is a written report of a research project or creative work in teaching, research or extension. No honors coursework is required to graduate with these designations.

Please be aware that:

- Transfer credits and S-U option credits are excluded.
- Postbaccalaureate students are not eligible for honors recognition.
- Honors recognition is printed on the university diploma.

3. Honors Thesis

An honors thesis is supervised by a faculty mentor who can be employed in any of the colleges at UF. A proposal for the thesis must be submitted to the Department of Animal Sciences Honors Coordinator for approval and then to the CALS Honors Program Coordinator.

Note: For *Honors Thesis* within the CALS Honors Program please see below.

4. CALS Upper Division Honors Program

CALS is the only UF College to offer an **upper division** Honors Program that allows students to enrich their education. Please go to the CALS Honors Program's website http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/honors_program.shtml for more information, forms and other resources. To be eligible for admission into the CALS Honors Program, you must have:

- completed one semester in CALS
- accumulated between 60 and 90 credit hours
- a GPA of 3.75 or higher

You will be invited to participate by the CALS Honors Program Coordinator. Participants of the CALS Honors Program:

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- maintain a minimum upper division GPA of 3.75 for magna cum laude, or a minimum upper division GPS of 3.85 for summa cum laude,
- take ALS 3923, Honors Orientation (1 credit),
- take ANS 4909, Honors Project (3 credits),
- write an honors thesis (see: http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/thesis.shtml),
- take two additional honors courses (4-6 credits) (see: http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/courses.shtml)
 - **Honors Course Contracts** involve scholarly inquiry and faculty mentoring linked to upper division courses within your major. Together with your instructor, additional course requirements are developed, and the course receives Honors status. Students must submit the Honors Contract form to the Dean's office no later than the 3rd week of the semester in which the course is taken. This is the most common way that CALS Honors course work is completed. However, keep in mind that you can write an Honors Contract on upper division courses in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences only!
 - **Graduate and UF Honors Courses:** UF Honors courses numbered 3000 or above and not previously counted for credit will also satisfy CALS Honors course requirements. Graduate courses are those numbered 5000 and above, and they require the consent of the instructor for you to enroll; contact the instructor directly.

5. CALS Honors Thesis

An Undergraduate Honors Thesis is required of all students pursuing Latin Honors from UF at the magna or summa cum laude levels, and of all students in the CALS Honors Program. The student has to seek an advisor and discuss and plan a research project (see below for more information). The student then has to write a Thesis Proposal:

a. CALS Honors Thesis Proposal Guidelines

(http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/documents/CALS_Honors_Thesis_Proposal_Guidelines.pdf)

A brief thesis proposal is required no later than the 3rd week of the semester prior to the student's final semester. For example, it would be due the 3rd week of Spring semester 2011 for students graduating Fall semester 2011. Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged as some theses require three or more semesters for planning, execution and writing. The following guidelines describe the format and basic content of a thesis proposal, and were adapted from the CALS guidelines for the University Scholars Program.

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Page limit: two pages, single spaced, plus a cover page. The text should be no more than one page, and the second page should include literature citations and optional items such as figures or tables. Include the project title, names and signatures of the student, faculty mentor, and Departmental Honors Coordinator on the cover page.

Format: Arrange the text in three parts, using the subheadings listed below. Address the items listed under each section.

I. Literature review and justification:

- Briefly describe the background and overall context of the research, citing references. Point out the gap in the literature that this project will fill.
- Justify that the project includes the original, creative work of the student as informed and directed by the faculty mentor (i.e., the student is not simply helping a graduate student or post-doc with his/her research)
- Describe the impact of the research on the scientific discipline, society, or plants, animals or humans (as the case may be); what is the benefit?

II. Research objective, anticipated results:

- State the objective(s), research question(s), or hypothesis clearly and concisely.
- Describe the anticipated results; the most likely among the possibilities.
- Will the project be worthwhile only if the student finds the anticipated results, or can a quality thesis be written regardless? What is the backup plan?

III. Methodology, timeline, analysis plan:

- Briefly describe the methods, citing a reference to published protocol if available.
- Provide sufficient detail to give a reader confidence that the student understands what to do and how to do it.
- Include a timeline, indicating how much time will be devoted to various aspects of the study (e.g., planning/training, data collection, analysis, writing, etc); is it realistic given the anticipated graduation date?
- Describe how the data/results will be analyzed, interpreted and presented.

Submission: Thesis proposals must be submitted to the Departmental Honors Coordinator by the end of the third week of the semester prior to the student's final semester. The Departmental Honors Coordinator will review the proposal and forward to the CALS Dean's office (2002 McCarty Hall) for final approval. The Dean's office will notify the student, faculty mentor, and Departmental Honors Coordinator if revisions are required or if the research can proceed as proposed.

b. **CALS Honors Thesis Guidelines**

(http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/documents/Thesisguidelines_002.pdf)

Format: Please refer to this link above for specific thesis guidelines.

Thesis Submission: It is the student's responsibility to comply with deadlines regarding the thesis submission.

Animal Sciences undergraduate students completing an honors thesis must have their thesis reviewed by a faculty member in Animal Sciences and the departmental Honors Program coordinator prior to submitting it to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean who coordinates the honors program. Students who are mentored by ANS faculty will have their thesis reviewed by their faculty mentor. Students who are mentored by faculty outside ANS must provide a copy of their thesis to the ANS Honors Coordinator three weeks before the deadline to turn the thesis in to the College.

The Honors Program Coordinator will review those theses s/he is qualified to review and solicit a faculty reviewer for topics outside his/her expertise, or in cases where the number of theses submitted makes it unrealistic for theses to be handled within the given timeframe.

The faculty reviewer will complete the thesis review within two weeks of receiving the thesis. The thesis will be returned to the student with faculty comments. The student will make the suggested revisions. The revised thesis and the faculty-reviewed thesis will be turned in to the ANS Honors Program Coordinator along with the thesis submission form. S/he will verify that the corrections have been made, sign the submission form and return the thesis and form to the student. It is the student's responsibility to turn the thesis in to the CALS Dean by the established deadline.

If students fail to observe the deadline for submission of the thesis to the ANS Honors Program Coordinator, the department cannot guarantee that the thesis review will be completed by the deadline established by the College.

6. University Scholar Program

This program provides financial support for work on research during the summer and can help students to complete research for their honors thesis. Please refer to the following link for more information: http://cals.ufl.edu/current_students/scholar.shtml

7. CALS Honors Program in the Department of Animal Sciences - What the student should do ... (see link under "Honors Programs and Graduation with Honors at UF")