

COGS Honors Theses (COGS 86,87)

Honors theses are open to students who expect to have and who maintain the necessary cumulative averages (3.50 in Cognitive Science courses and 3.33 overall). In order to be accepted for thesis writing, a student must maintain or attain by the end of the Junior year the required averages, and have a thesis proposal approved by the Steering Committee by the end of the term in residence prior to commencement of thesis writing.

During the junior year, students should consult with faculty members who might serve as advisors in the preparation and submission of a thesis proposal. In some cases in which students are working cross-disciplinarily, it will be appropriate to have a main advisor and a secondary advisor in another field. Senior thesis proposals must be submitted to the Chair of the program with signed approval by advisor or advisors by the beginning of the fifth week in the term prior to the beginning of projected thesis work, and preferably in spring term in the junior year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete and to submit their proposals before the spring term deadline, since the program may ask for modifications before allowing students to proceed with thesis work and writing. All proposals will be approved or denied by the Steering Committee. Typically, the thesis advisor will be the faculty member with whom the student has been working to produce a proposal. In some cases, however, another supervisor may be appointed, especially if a single faculty member is working with multiple students.

THESIS RESEARCH AND WRITING

Students writing a senior thesis are strongly encouraged to be in residence for the entirety of their senior year. Students writing theses are typically enrolled [COGS 86 and 87](#) for the fall and winter quarters of their senior year. In extraordinary cases, a student may be permitted to write a winter-spring or fall-spring thesis. In such cases, students are expected to consult with the Chair of the department during the junior year and to request special accommodations when submitting their senior thesis proposals.

Thesis students and their supervisors work together to prepare a research and writing plan, and meet regularly throughout the thesis terms. After the first term of work, the advisor writes an evaluation of the student's progress, determining whether they can continue with an honors thesis. Those that do not get permission to continue get a grade and cannot continue with COGS 87; those that continue will get an ongoing grade (ON) and will receive two terms of credit with the final grade on their thesis.

Students must submit a full draft of the thesis by the seventh Monday of the term in which the thesis is due. This draft is read by the advisor(s) and an outside reader. The readers can insist on significant revisions before submission of the final product. Thesis grades are determined by supervisors and external readers. Students must submit four bound copies of the final thesis, one of which is printed on acid-free bond paper, to the department administrator by the 9th Monday of the term. Public presentations will be

scheduled during the last two weeks of the spring term.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students must submit a proposal to the steering committee by the beginning of the 5th week in the term prior to the term in which the independent study is planned.

Proposals will include a plan and rationale for the IS, as well as a weekly syllabus.

Criteria for approval include whether the proposed plan is significantly different from what is available in course offerings, whether the plan is well conceived and concrete, and whether it includes sufficient means of assessment. IS advisors are encouraged to work with the student to develop the proposal, and must sign the IS/Honors form.

Students are encouraged to submit well in advance of the deadline. Approval will be at the chair's discretion, with borderline cases sent to the committee for review.

Thesis Proposal and Independent Study Cover Form:

Student name:

This is a proposal for an:

Honors thesis

Independent study

Term(s):

Title:

Advisor(s):

I hereby endorse the attached proposal and agree to serve as advisor:

Primary advisor: Faculty name, affiliation

Signature

Secondary advisor (if appropriate): Name and affiliation

Signature

This form should be submitted electronically along with a completed thesis proposal or IS proposal to the Elizabeth Cassell (liz.cassell@dartmouth.edu) by the Monday of the 5th week of the term.