

## **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 appropriate to have a main advisor and a secondary advisor in another field. 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.

**Proposal due date:** Must be submitted to the Chair of the program with approval of advisor or advisors by the **eighth week of the spring term** prior to thesis work beginning in the fall, and by the **fifth week of the fall term** prior to thesis work beginning in the winter.

### **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 their soft their soft copy to the chair by the ninth week of the term. The final version needs to be uploaded to Digital Commons by the grading due date. Public presentations will be scheduled during the last two weeks of the spring term.