

Thesis Guidelines for Students in the Department of Health and Human Performance

Choosing a mentor:

Choosing a mentor is a critical component for becoming successful in the thesis development process. Students should be fully aware of which faculty members in the department are available to serve and the kinds of theses those faculty members feel competent to direct. On the other hand, faculty should know something about the students interested in working with them on the thesis and that they may have sincere interest and competency in a specific topic.

In the Department of Health and Human Performance, students may go directly to potential faculty mentors or to the department chair for suggestions of a qualified faculty person. It will be necessary for the faculty to talk with the department chair prior to accepting a student to mentor.

In discussions between students and faculty, academic preparation of the students (i.e., specific courses taken or additional background) must be determined. It is possible that specific courses must be taken in order to complete the project. This will become a part of the agreement between the faculty and student.

Thesis academic credit:

The thesis may count for elective credit within the major but may not be taken in lieu of the required courses.

Acceptable thesis work:

There should be flexibility in these guidelines but the honors thesis should consist of multiple chapters or sections and, whenever possible, should incorporate primary sources into its argument. It must be a work that adheres to disciplinary expectations regarding sources and citation, and in which the writing is of high quality. It is understood that requirements may vary within this department depending on the disciplinary area.

The following is a suggested outline for your thesis:

- I. Cover Page
- II. Manuscript
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Methods
 - a. introductory paragraph
 - b. subjects
 - c. instruments
 - d. testing procedures
 - e. statistical analysis
 - C. Results
 - D. Discussion
 - E. References

III. Appendices

A. The problem

- a. research question
- b. experimental hypotheses
- c. assumptions
- d. limitations
- e. significance of the study

B. Literature review

C. Additional methods

- a. informed consent form
- b. questionnaires
- c. data collection sheets
- d. specific testing procedures
- e. other tables as necessary

D. Additional results

E. Recommendations for future research

IV. Bibliography