

Senior Honors Thesis FAQs

The most up-to-date information about the Senior Honors Thesis, including eligibility and deadlines, can be found with the [Office of Undergraduate Research](#).

What courses do I need to complete with an EXSS Senior Honors Thesis?

The EXSS Senior Honors Thesis requires the completion of EXSS 693H, EXSS 694H, and a quality senior thesis.

- EXSS 693H. Senior Honors (3). Corequisite, EXSS 273. Directed independent research under the supervision of a faculty adviser who teaches in the Exercise and Sport Science curriculum.
- EXSS 694H. Senior Honors (3). Prerequisite, EXSS 693H. Preparation of an honors thesis and an oral examination on the thesis.

Who should be my faculty thesis advisor?

The faculty thesis advisor must be a full-time member of the EXSS department, and either be a tenure-track faculty or hold a doctoral degree. Each EXSS faculty is allowed to advise a maximum of two Senior Honors Thesis students at one time. It is recommended that you contact faculty members to see if they are available to serve as an advisor and have expertise in your area of interest.

What kinds of projects are completed for a Senior Honors Thesis?

Students in EXSS complete a wide variety of projects that cover a wide variety of topics. Once you have identified your faculty thesis advisor, consult with them on topics that would work within your interests and their expertise.

Who is on my committee?

The EXSS Senior Honors Thesis committee will consist of the student's faculty thesis advisor, who will chair the committee, and at least one other member of the EXSS faculty.

Students may include additional faculty members, alongside doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars. The thesis advisor will determine whether committee members are to

be designated as voting or non-voting members for “with honors” and “with highest honors” distinctions.

All committee members must be present for the thesis proposal and thesis defense. Having large committees may inhibit the ability to appropriately schedule these meetings.

How do I get registered for the class?

Please set up a meeting with your potential faculty advisor to discuss your interest.

After the meeting, you must submit the following to **the Online Course Management System (OLCM)**: <https://olcm.oasis.unc.edu/olcm/>.

- Committee form with your topic idea, advisor/committee names, designation of voting or non-voting members, and signatures
- Senior Honors Thesis learning contract

Your materials will be reviewed and approved by your Faculty Thesis Advisor and the EXSS Director of Undergraduate Research. **All this must be submitted to OLCM by the first day of classes to be registered, no exceptions.**

How do I graduate “with Honors” or “with Highest Honors”?

Graduation “with honors” will occur with the completion of EXSS 693H, EXSS 694H, and a quality senior thesis (inclusive of passing your proposal and defense, and depositing your final written thesis to the [Carolina Digital Repository](#)). To pass the proposal and defense, a majority (e.g., 2/2, 2/3, 3/4, 3/5) of voting members of the thesis committee must assign a “pass” to each.

Graduation “with highest honors” will occur with the above, in addition to a majority of voting committee members nominating the student for this distinction. Nominations must be submitted via [this link](#) by the defense deadline date posted on the OUR website. Committee members will be asked to discuss how the quality of the thesis document, the research performed, and the oral defense merits graduation “with highest honors.” The EXSS Director of Undergraduate Research will notify the advisor and student of the “highest honors” distinction once a majority of complete nominations is provided,

It is the responsibility of each voting committee member to complete nominations on time. Nominations will be held in strict confidence. Each voting member should independently decide whether they choose to nominate a student. No member of the thesis committee should coerce any other members into this decision.