

SENIOR HONORS THESIS GUIDELINES—THE SECOND SEMESTER
FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR THESIS DIRECTORS

Here are some guidelines for writing up the senior honors thesis:

1. Make sure you and your director have established how long the thesis will be. This varies widely depending on the field.
2. When writing the thesis, use a standard bibliographic system for all citations, works cited or bibliography, endnotes or footnotes, etc. We suggest you use one of the following: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, or *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (by Turabian). If your thesis director has another style manual that s/he prefers, use that one. Just make sure you are consistent with your citation method. Titles should be italicized (or underlined) or in quotation marks, depending on if they are book, poem, or article titles, etc. Don't worry if you don't know this offhand! That is why you need a style manual. Use appropriate sources; do not rely heavily on sources you find on the web, except if they are peer-reviewed articles from peer-reviewed e-journals or full-text versions of print journal articles found in an on-line database.
3. Please double space text and only print on one side of the page. Leave a 1½ inch left margin (1 inch everywhere else) and use 12-point Times New Roman type.
4. The title page of the thesis should look more or less like the one on the back of this page. Please include all the information on the model.
5. After the title page, include an abstract. In about 200 words summarize the purpose of the paper, the methods used for collecting and analyzing the information, and the conclusions you draw.
6. If you have a table of contents, place it after the abstract. And you need a bibliography/works cited of course (use your style manual here too)!
7. When you turn in the final copy to your thesis director, give an original (not photocopied) copy to the Honors Program Director as well. Two copies will be bound and you will get one of them.

The Honors Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City

[Title of Thesis]

[Author of Thesis]

[Date of Submission of Thesis]

Written under the direction of Professor [Thesis Director]

[Department or School]

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements to
graduate as an Honors College Scholar from UMKC