

## **Guidelines for Honors thesis in Cognitive Science**

The student interested in pursuing Honors must submit a proposal for an honors thesis project to the DUS (see Guidelines below). This is due by the end of the first week following the conclusion of spring quarter. The student should also submit the name of the faculty member who has agreed to be the thesis advisor, supervising the student's work on the thesis project. The DUS, in consultation with the thesis advisor, identifies a second reader, who may be a Cognitive Science faculty affiliate, or a faculty member in an adjacent field.

Students will normally enroll in CogSci 398 in the Fall and Winter terms of their senior year to allow them sufficient time in their schedules for completion of a substantial project of sufficiently high quality. With the permission from the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one quarter of 399 may substitute for one quarter of 398.

Students must plan to graduate in June of their senior year. They must also meet the GPA requirements for honors in Cog Sci (a minimum GPA of 3.5 in courses taken toward the Cog Sci major).

The student should submit the thesis to the DUS no later than April 30. It is highly recommended that the student gets feedback on the thesis from the advisor before the submission deadline, so the student can make improvements before submitting it to the DUS. There is no revision of the thesis after it has been submitted to the DUS.

If the thesis is reviewed as satisfactory, and assuming all other requirements for honors are met, the DUS consults with the Cognitive Science Director and the Program Committee, and submits a recommendation to Weinberg College that the student be awarded honors. This recommendation is due in the College in mid-May.

### **Guidelines for the Honors thesis proposal:**

The proposal should be 2-3 pages, including a timeline for the research. An extra page may be used for References. There are no strict formatting guidelines, but students are encouraged to following the style guidelines for the discipline closest to their research, e.g., Chicago, APA, or ACM styles. The purpose of the Honors thesis proposal is to document that the student has a topic and plan for research that has been vetted and approved by their advisor. The student will not receive critical feedback on the scientific merit of methods of their project, but the proposal must provide enough information about the research question and methods to demonstrate to the Cognitive Science Director of Undergraduate Studies that the student is on track with a feasible project that can be completed in the allotted time. The proposal requirement is also a way to be sure that students are ready to start their honors research project by the start of Senior year.