

Department of Human Development and Family Studies Honors Guidelines

GPA Requirements for Honors In Major

Students are required to maintain an overall grade-point average of 3.40 and a 3.40 grade-point average in the major.

Honors in Major Courses

Students must successfully complete sixteen (16) credits of honors in Human Development and Family Studies at the 600 level or above. Of those sixteen credits, only one course may be chosen from the 600 level, while three must be chosen from the 700 level. The 700-level coursework must include four credits (two semesters) of HDFS 799 – Honors Senior Thesis. Human Development and Family Studies honors courses require independent work, readings, and meetings with the course instructor not required of other students enrolled in the course.

Honors Thesis

Students must successfully complete four credits of HDFS 799 – Honors Senior Thesis. HDFS 799 is a two-credit course that is taken pass/fail over both semesters of the student's senior year. As part of the thesis process, honors candidates must present a proposal to their faculty advisors that includes active student participation in original research. Once their research is completed, honors students must present their findings at a seminar and submit a written thesis to their faculty advisor.

Thesis Proposal

Each Honors in Major student must submit a thesis proposal by the seventh (7th) week of Fall Semester of his or her senior year. A copy of each proposal will be kept on file in the Human Development and Family Studies Department.

The proposal should follow these guidelines:

- The proposal should be 3-5 pages, double spaced.
- The proposal should include a rationale, objectives, methodology, and a timeline, including the submission date for the written thesis.
- The proposal should also include a list of resources to be accessed by the student (e.g., scholarly journal articles, books, and professionals in the field).
- The proposal should include a summary describing the final outcome of the project, particularly if it will be in an alternative format.

Thesis Presentation

Students must submit their written thesis to their faculty advisor by the date negotiated with that advisor and present their research findings at a seminar before the end of the second semester of their senior year.