Thesis Writing for Clark Honors College Students in PPPM

PPPM majors in the Clark Honors College may be able to write a thesis that will satisfy elective credits for both departments. Students are encouraged to review the Honors College website for more information and to contact both an Honors College Advisor and the PPPM Undergraduate Program Director. Interested students should do the following:

**Freshman/Sophomore year:**

1. Take the 200-level HC Arts & Letters or Social Science Research Course.
2. Take classes in the PPPM major on topics that interest you and get to know your professors.
3. Take HC 408H: Thesis Orientation near end of sophomore year. This one credit course provides an overview of writing a thesis.

**Junior year:**

4. Meet with the PPPM Undergraduate Program Director to discuss your thesis plans and PPPM requirements.
5. Continue to take PPPM upper-division courses in an area of potential interest for writing a thesis, and confirm a thesis advisor in PPPM. To meet Honors College requirements, the thesis advisor must be a tenure-track faculty member with the School of PPPM.
6. *Spring Term of Junior year:* Take HC 477H: Thesis Prospectus (2cr.) This course will help students develop a thesis topic. It is recommended you take this course 2 terms prior to the term you plan to defend your thesis (example: take HC 477H in the fall if you plan to defend your thesis in the spring).
   a. Submit a Thesis Prospectus Application Form (signed by your primary Thesis Advisor), along with a one-page outline of your thesis idea and a bibliography, to the Academic and Thesis Programs Manager in the Honors College, Mariam Jordan (mjordan@uoregon.edu), no later than 5:00pm on Friday of Week 6 the term *before you intend to enroll in HC 477H*.
   b. Additional Third year requirements can be found online: [https://honors.uoregon.edu/sites/honors1.uoregon.edu/files/chc_thesis_process_four-year_overview.pdf](https://honors.uoregon.edu/sites/honors1.uoregon.edu/files/chc_thesis_process_four-year_overview.pdf).

**Senior year:**

7. Fill out the PPPM Individualized Study form and the PPPM Undergraduate Honors Program Thesis Approval Form in order to register for 8-9 credits of PPPM 403 Thesis in the 2-3 terms preceding graduation. These credits will count toward the required 32 PPPM elective credits. (To be eligible for PPPM School Honors, the student must register for PPPM 403.)
8. Schedule a thesis defense through the Honors College.

*PPPM majors who complete a thesis and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher will qualify for PPPM Departmental Honors upon graduation. CHC students with lower GPAs will still complete a PPPM thesis, but will not receive departmental honors upon graduation.*
Thesis Writing for PPPM Majors not enrolled in Clark Honors College
PPPM Honors Program

Students who are PPPM majors and not enrolled in the Clark Honors College may be eligible to complete an honors thesis. Thesis credits (PPPM 403) will satisfy elective credits for the PPPM major and qualify the student for departmental honors. PPPM majors must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75 to be eligible for a PPPM thesis, and must maintain a 3.75 cumulative GPA to be considered for departmental honors upon graduation.

Writing a thesis is an excellent way for students to develop strong technical writing skills and advanced research skills. Writing a thesis also helps students connect with faculty who share similar interests. Students may also find thesis writing to be an important step if they are considering graduate studies. Students considering a thesis must meet with the PPPM Undergraduate Program Director to discuss eligibility, process, and timeline. Interested students should do the following:

**Sophomore or junior year:**
1. Take upper-division PPPM courses in an area of potential interest for a thesis topic. An instructor in one of these classes is a logical candidate for a thesis advisor.
2. Meet with the PPPM Undergraduate Program Director to discuss your thesis plans, program requirements, and possible PPPM thesis advisors. Students are advised to approach tenure track faculty and approved non-tenure track faculty. Due to other teaching, research, and advising duties, some faculty may not be available to advise students on undergraduate theses.
3. Meet with faculty to discuss an honors thesis and ask if they will serve as your advisor. Identify faculty members whose interests align with yours and work with them to develop a suitable thesis topic. Do not approach faculty with an already identified topic.
4. Complete PPPM 413 Quantitative Methods and other preparatory courses as identified by your thesis advisor by the end of junior year.

**Senior year:**
1. Complete and submit the PPPM Undergraduate Honors Program Thesis Approval Form and PPPM Individualized Study form to the PPPM Undergraduate Program Director no later than week 5 of the term prior to when you wish to register for thesis credits (i.e., to register for PPPM 403 during winter and spring terms, submit paperwork by week 5 of fall term).
2. Register for up to 8 credits PPPM 403 Thesis in the 2-3 terms preceding graduation (2-4 credits/term for 2-3 terms). These credits will count toward the required 32 elective credits for the major.

**Note:** The typical length of an undergraduate thesis is 25-35 pages. Length and scope of a student’s thesis will be determined by the thesis advisor.