

Senior Honors Thesis Prospectus Checklist

The prospectus for the senior honors thesis should reflect the following guidelines.

1. Nature and Scope of the Thesis

- The prospectus presents a plan for independent and original work.
- The topic of the planned senior thesis is appropriate to the student's major.
- The prospectus presents a plan for in-depth study of material above and beyond the requirements for graduation in the major.
- The format of the planned senior thesis is appropriate to the student's major (e.g., laboratory research, a research paper, interviews or a written survey, a musical or dramatic performance, or an exhibition).

2. Cover Page

- The cover page includes the title of the senior thesis, the student's name, and the name of the faculty supervisor.
- The faculty supervisor has signed the cover page of the prospectus to indicate that he or she has reviewed this checklist with the student and approves the prospectus.
- The Chair of the Department of English and Communication Studies has signed the cover page of the prospectus to indicate that he or she has reviewed and approves the prospectus for grammar, style, and form.

3. Statement of Purpose and Review of Pertinent Literature

- The purpose of the planned senior thesis is clearly and explicitly stated.
- The student demonstrates that he/she knows what experts have said, thought, done, or written about the subject of the thesis.
- The pertinent literature is clearly and concisely summarized in the prospectus.
- Research hypotheses or questions that the student plans to test or answer are clearly stated.

4. Methodology

- The student's planned method is appropriate to the subject being investigated.
- The student's planned method is stated clearly and in sufficient detail for a reader from another discipline to understand it.
- The proposed methodology can be carried out in the amount of time available with reasonable effort.
- The student has selected an appropriate style and format for the thesis. Where appropriate. (e.g., in experimental, observational, or survey research)
- The student has presented a clearly defined research design.
- Key variables in the defined study are clearly explained and/or operationally defined.
- Methods for measuring variables are clearly explained.
- Number, source, sampling, and treatment of participants/subjects are clearly stated.
- The student has indicated that she or he will follow APA/AERA guidelines for the ethical treatment of human participants and/or animal subjects. Where appropriate. (e.g., in research involving the reading, interpretation, and criticism of literary or non-literary texts)

- The student has identified the primary sources to be read, analyzed, and criticized.
- The student has identified secondary sources that will contribute to the reading, analysis, and criticism of the primary texts.

5. Ethics

- The student has identified and addressed all potential ethical issues posed by the thesis, including (but not limited to) procedures for
 - obtaining informed consent of participants (a copy of the proposed consent form should be attached to the prospectus)
 - maintaining the anonymity of human participants
 - protecting human participants or animal subjects from undue harm.

6. Bibliography and Citations

- The bibliography includes a sufficient number of scholarly and current (or timely) sources.
- The bibliography and citations in the text follow a standard format (such as APA style).
- Each bibliographic entry provides all necessary information.