

*This is the general course syllabus. The course objectives and student requirements (#1-#10) will not vary between sections, however, each instructor may vary the thesis format, the process and/or deadlines. A signed learning contract between the student and the instructor to outline the schedule, format, and specific grading criteria is strongly recommended. An example contract and rubric are provided.*

## **AH 4297W Syllabus**

### AH 4297W Honors Thesis in Allied Health Sciences.

Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011 or 3800; Instructor Consent. Open only to Department of Allied Health Sciences students, juniors or higher, in good standing with the Honors Program. Under the supervision of a faculty advisor, the student will complete a written thesis that is based on a student-designed honors research project.

### Goal: AH 4297W: Honors Thesis in Allied Health Sciences.

The goal of the Honors Thesis Writing in Allied Health Sciences course is to provide the student with guidance in the preparation of a written thesis.

### Course Objectives:

- Develop effective written communication skills based on a hypothesis or need (issue)
- Demonstrate an ability to analyze and synthesize a broad range of material
- Investigate and appreciate how scholars think about problems, formulate hypotheses, research those problems, and draw conclusions about them
- Gain experience with independent and critical thinking
- Apply knowledge and logic when presenting an idea
- Consider the consequences of ideas for the individuals addressed in the thesis or grant proposal and for society as a whole
- Properly identify and cite relevant primary references
- Develop an Honors thesis that expresses interests and educational goals and reflects work in Allied Health Sciences
- Revise draft documents based on peer and faculty review
- Improve writing skills including clarity, appropriate grammar, punctuation, paragraph structure, logical flow of information, source integration and reference format
- Identify, locate and summarize current and relevant primary literature
- Explain ethical guidelines for conducting and presenting research
- Paraphrase and critique other researcher's work
- Report research conducted
- Propose research studies

### In the completion of this course, the student will

1. Consult with his/her Honors Thesis advisor to discuss what topic is most appropriate for the student thesis
2. Develop a learning agreement with his/her Honors/Thesis advisor regarding the content and logistics of the student's Honors thesis.
3. Seek assistance from faculty advisor and mentors during the process of producing the thesis. The process(es) for interactions between the faculty and student for writing instructions and guidance through face-to-face meetings, comments on thesis drafts, and response to revisions will be outlined in the learning agreement.
4. Discuss with faculty mentor their authorship expectations **before** submitting any manuscript, presenting any poster or giving a talk regarding the student's thesis.
5. Be fully informed about and compliant with UConn's policies and federal regulatory requirements regarding research.
6. Maintain confidentiality of research as per principle investigator's request.
7. Write a minimum of a fifteen page thesis that has been revised for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness. Document the work as per the learning agreement.

8. Be aware of and meet all requirements for the department and the Honors Program.
9. Visit the Honors website ([honors.uconn.edu](http://honors.uconn.edu)) on a regular basis for deadlines, requirements, and useful resources.
10. Submit a final hard copy of the thesis to the Honors Program main office.

**Format:** The final thesis will be a minimum of 15 pages of typed text (1" margins, paginated, 12 point Times or Arial font, double-spaced). Fifteen pages does *not* include the approval page, abstract, acknowledgements, table of contents, lists of tables/figures, or citations.

1. Approval or title page. The approval page should include the title of your thesis, your full name, signature lines for your Honors thesis advisor, your Honors academic advisor, and any other thesis advisors as appropriate, the department(s) in which your thesis was conducted, and the date. If your thesis advisor is also your Honors advisor, it is recommended that you have a second faculty member read your thesis.
2. Abstract. This should be on a separate page. ( $\leq 250$  words)
3. Acknowledgments. This should be on a separate page.
4. Table of contents. This should be on a separate page
5. List of Tables (if any). This should be on a separate page but is not required if you have no tables
6. List of Figures (if any). This should be on a separate page but is not required if you have no figures
7. Introduction with the research question/hypothesis and summary sentences; Headings and subheadings that the reader can follow and frequent summaries after major subheadings or headings
8. Literature Review/Background: A series of primary research article summaries that address the hypothesis (not necessarily in support of the student's hypothesis) joined by comparing and contrasting the findings of the research articles. A range of citations (those available online and from the library) and national statistics will be required
9. Figures and/or tables with the appropriate citation, headings/figure legends (the goal is to make the table or figure have enough information so it can stand alone) and reference to the figures or tables within the text of the paper
10. A proposed experimental procedure (methods section) to address the hypothesis (as in a grant application) or an outline of the experimental procedures, and the purpose of the procedures for research that has been conducted by the student.
11. Materials and Methods: An experimental procedure section to address the hypothesis. This section will follow guidelines for scientific abbreviations and provide reagents in final concentration (e.g. 50 ug/mL *not* 10 uL of 500 ug/mL of reagent A was added to 10 mL water). Methods section will provide enough detail to be repeated by another researcher. Company manufacturer and catalog # will be provided for all kits and if no modifications have been made, the procedure may be written "*as per manufacturer's suggested protocol*".
12. Results: A results section that succinctly and completely provides the results (with statistical values as required). Figures and/or tables with the appropriate citation, headings/figure legends (the goal is to make the table or figure have enough information so it can stand alone) and reference to the figures or tables within the text of the paper. Research proposals/grants will include an anticipated results section.
13. Conclusion: A conclusion of the research and implications for the community(ies) affected by the research. (e.g., policy changes, new interventions, new practice guidelines)

14. Citations: A citation of every statement in the paper that is from a source and a citation list. Use appropriate citation/referencing based on a primary journal in the field of research or as assigned by the instructor.
15. Review all drafts and evaluation of the final paper for plagiarism through SafeAssign

**Process:** Students will complete assignments by submission deadlines listed below or as provided by the Honors Thesis advisor. With each submission, a statement avowing that the student did not plagiarize and the steps taken to avoid plagiarism will be included.

Submission Deadlines

1. Week 1: Proposed research question (hypothesis or need statement)
2. Week 3:
  - a. Introduction with the research question/hypothesis summary sentences
  - b. Literature review
3. Week 5: Proposed or completed experimental procedures (methods section)
4. Week 6: Second draft of introduction, literature review and methods
5. Week 7: Results or anticipated results section
6. Week 9: Conclusions
7. Week 11: First full draft of the thesis
8. Week 13: Second full draft of the thesis (this may be the last)
9. Week 14: Final thesis

Grading

Course evaluation will be based on thesis drafts and revision of these drafts based on faculty guidance.

$\geq 93 = A$	$90-92.9 = A-$	$87-89.9 = B+$
$83-76.9 = B$	$80-82.9 = B-$	$77-79.9 = C+$
$73-76.9 = C$	$70-72.9 = C-$	$67-69.9 = D+$
$63-66.9 = D$	$60-62.9 = D-$	$<60 = F$