



# honors thesis in digital culture

## What is an honors thesis in Digital Culture?

Digital Culture explores how new media and technology can be used to impact our everyday lives.

Upon identifying a problem, students will utilize the tools of Digital Culture to innovate current practices to generate positive social impact. They will complete a comprehensive review of relevant literature and past work in the field. Finally, they are required to synthesize their research, develop a project which addresses their chosen problem, and perform testing and reviews of their project.

In addition to creating a unique project, students will prepare a formal thesis document. It should clearly describe the problem, research, methodology and design process, rationale, and document the project outcome. Simply put, the thesis should tell the story of the project.

## How do I enroll for Honors Thesis in Digital Culture?

An honors thesis within Digital Culture may be completed in one of two ways - either via the Digital Culture Capstone or Honors Directed Study + Honors Thesis (see below for details). This will be determined by the Digital Culture/AME faculty member serving as your Honors Thesis Director. Whichever option is chosen, all students are required to complete and submit a formal thesis document (approximately 15-30 pages; consult with Thesis Director for specific details).

**Option 1 - Digital Culture Capstone:** In undertaking our Honors Thesis through Capstone, you will need to work on a project within the Capstone framework – this is usually a group project – you will then need to apply that project in some way – test it, get some data about its success etc and then compile all of that information within your thesis. Your Thesis Director will guide you in the development of your research and evaluations for your thesis project and document. You must develop a contract with your Thesis Director that clearly outlines the work you will complete, the methods required and the assessable outcomes. Your project will be presented in a defense at the end of the final semester. Completing Digital Culture Capstone for your Honors Thesis is much like completing an honors contract for an ASU course. This is the most common path for DC Honors students.

- Semester I - AME 485 Digital Culture Capstone I (3 credits)
- Semester II - AME 486 Digital Culture Capstone II (3 credits)

**Option 2 - Honors Directed Study + Honors Thesis:** If an AME faculty agrees to advise you outside of the Digital Culture Capstone course, you will register for Honors Directed Study and Honors Thesis. In this case, the thesis project and document will be completed independently under

the mentorship of a Digital Culture faculty member, and these courses would substitute for the DC capstone requirement.

- Semester I - AME 492: Honors Directed Study (3 credits)

- Semester II - AME 493: Honors Thesis (3 credits)

To enroll in these hours, request permission by completing the Undergraduate Application for Honors Thesis (found at the end of this guide).

## Preparing for an honors thesis in Digital Culture

It is highly recommended that students identify a Thesis Director and meet with them to discuss the nature of the proposed honors thesis topic the semester before they intend to start. A thesis contract between the student and Thesis Director will be created. The thesis contract should clearly outline the work you will complete, the methods required and the assessable outcomes. Your project will be presented in a defense at the end of the final semester.

Once students have identified an AME faculty member to work with, they should seek enrollment in the appropriate course (as explained above). Each student must complete 6 credits hours of Honors Thesis via Capstone, Honors Directed Study, and/or Honors Thesis credits. These 6 credits are split over two semesters, registering for 3 credits each semester. Thesis courses must be taken consecutively and cannot be taken concurrently.

Permission to register is required for AME 485, 486, 492, and 493 (see above for instructions). The student must be enrolled no later than the Drop/Add deadline. Failure to enroll may delay the student's thesis studies.

## Knowing what to expect

There's a lot you can do to find out more about the process and expectations for Honors Thesis. We recommend you do the following:

- **Explore Barrett Resources:** Barrett has excellent online resources for outlining what an Honors Thesis project is. A guidebook to the thesis can be found at <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project>.
- **Attend a required Thesis/Creative Project information session:** Students may complete this requirement by completing one of the following:
  - HON 498 Thesis Prep Course, a one-credit course offered on the Downtown campus.
  - Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by academic units and Barrett.
  - Online Blackboard workshop offered through Barrett.
- **Talk to Digital Culture Faculty:** Many faculty have experience mentoring and advising students on their Honors Thesis. They can help guide you through the process and give you more information on what they might expect if you were to work with them.
- **Review Past Thesis Documents:** Barrett, The Honors College has a library of documents previously prepared by Honors students. View past thesis projects (2013-present) through the ASU Library Digital Repository: <http://repository.asu.edu/collections/130>. For projects prior to 2013, see your Barrett Honors Advisor about accessing the physical library.
- **Attend Thesis Defenses:** Every student will publicly present their thesis outcomes as part of a defense. Attending a defense before you do your own will help you prepare. It will give you a sense of how you should present your outcomes as well as the kinds of questions you might expect. A schedule of upcoming defenses can be found at: <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/defense-calendar>.
- **Talk to Other Digital Culture Honors Students:** If you are going through the thesis process or preparing for it, talking to other students can give you helpful insight to plan your thesis and help you avoid pitfalls.
- **Form a Thesis Committee:** Your thesis committee will consist of your Thesis Director and an additional member. Consult with your Thesis Director before identifying your second committee member. You will need to identify the second committee member on your prospectus, which you will submit to Barrett the

semester before enrolling in your first thesis course (AME 485 or 492).

## Support and Resources

Barrett has support and funding for Honors Thesis work.

- **Thesis Funding:** Students may apply to receive up to \$500 to complete their thesis. This funding may cover items such as materials needed for the project.
- **Honors Project Fund:** Typically used for non-thesis related expenses such as presenting a paper at a conference or attending an annual meeting related to your major. The funds may be used to cover such costs as travel, hotel, conference registration and supplies.
- **External Examiners Program:** As part of the thesis defense, you can apply to bring in an outside examiner or expert from another institution as your third reader. Students may receive up to \$1500 to bring in an expert in their thesis field from outside the University.

In addition, Digital Culture has support for student thesis work.

- **Project Funding:** Capstone students may be eligible to apply for funding to cover costs related to their creative projects. Details will be discussed within the Capstone class.
- **Hardware and Software:** Digital Culture maintains an extensive pool of technology which can be accessed by students. This includes equipment such as mobile devices, electronics, digital video cameras, etc.

Please note, support is competitive, limited, and/or subject to application and approval. It is recommended that you seek support early if you plan to do so.

## Support and Advice

There are also a number of people in Digital Culture who can provide advice and support.

### Stacey Moran

Faculty Honors Advisor -  
Digital Culture

[moran.nocек@asu.edu](mailto:moran.nocек@asu.edu)

### Althea Pergakis

Digital Culture Education Coordinator

[Althea.Pergakis@asu.edu](mailto:Althea.Pergakis@asu.edu)

### DC Advisor

Sarah Eldridge  
[Sarah.eldridge@asu.edu](mailto:Sarah.eldridge@asu.edu)  
Office: Design South 101

## A typical honors thesis schedule

Junior Year                      Complete a required thesis/creative project information session.

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End of Spring Semester,  
Junior Year                      Find a member of faculty that you want to work with on your Honors Thesis and have an initial discussion.  
  
Enroll in AME 485/492 for 3 credits.

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Start of Fall Semester,  
Senior Year                      Work with your Thesis Director to identify the problem you want to solve and develop a plan to solve it.  
  
Consult with your Thesis Director to identify a second committee member. Prepare your Prospectus early, with your Thesis Director, and submit to Barrett - see <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/2011/02/prospectus/> - This will help you plan the activities and focus the work.

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Fall Semester, Senior  
Year                                During this time, begin to uncover relevant related projects.  
  
By the end of the semester your background review should be completed and written up, and a project in development.

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End of Fall Semester,  
Senior Year                      Enroll in AME 486/493 for 3 credits.

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Start of Spring Semester      Continue working on the project and begin preparing your thesis document.

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Before Spring Break            By now you should have a draft of the thesis document ready and reviewed by your Thesis director and the project completed.  
  
Schedule your thesis defense - remember this is your responsibility - by completing the Thesis/Creative Project Defense Reporting Form  
  
The draft thesis should be sent to examiners for review at least two weeks before your defense.

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After Spring Break

Prepare for your defense!

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Defense

The defense will be a public presentation of your work, where all of your Thesis committee must all be present. Following a successful outcome, you will probably have some changes to make to the thesis based on their feedback. Don't forget to get the Signature Title Page signed by all committee members

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Early April

The final thesis document is submitted to Barrett.

Note: You should also carefully review the thesis guidelines, important dates and required forms which are outlined on the Barrett site. <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>

## *School of Arts, Media + Engineering / Digital Culture*

### Undergraduate Application for Individualized Instruction, Internship, Honors Directed Study and Honors Thesis

Check one

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Individualized Instruction:</b> AME 499, requires a minimum of <b>90 semester hours</b> , a <b>Digital Culture core GPA of 3.0</b> , faculty approval and department approval.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Internship:</b> AME 484, requires faculty approval and department approval.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Honors Directed Study:</b> AME 492, limited to honors students, requires an <b>ASU GPA of 3.25</b> , faculty approval and department approval.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Honors Thesis:</b> AME 493, reserved for honors students completing their honors theses and creative projects, requires faculty approval and department approval.

Name	ID#
ASU Email	Phone
Degree/Major	Semester hours completed
DC GPA	SLN

Course AME _____	Credit Hours _____	Semester/Yr _____
Description of project.		

Approvals

Faculty sponsor name (print)	
Faculty sponsor signature	Date
Department signature	Date

Complete the form and have your faculty sponsor sign it. Then, submit the form to Althea Pergakis (althea.pergakis@asu.edu) in Stauffer B220A to receive the line number.