Honors Thesis Process

Students majoring in Supply Chain Management can pursue an individual thesis project or propose a group project to their chosen thesis adviser. Supply Chain Management has approximately 20 faculty members, and most of them have served as Thesis Advisers at one time or another.

Individual projects should be discussed with an adviser prior to finalizing a proposal, and then the proposal must be approved by the Thesis Adviser and other members of the Thesis Committee.

Group projects can be completed across disciplinary lines, but the Thesis Adviser should be from Supply Chain Management, and both proposal and project approval must be obtained from the Thesis Adviser. Frequent partners include students from Information Systems, Finance, Marketing, and Economics.

In both of the above cases the project must include both oral and written components.

The Department recommends beginning thesis discussions with one or more faculty in the spring of the junior year, with target completion either in Fall or Spring of the senior year. This timing will also allow for beginning the project over the summer. In fact, summer internships are often ideal starting points for the project, depending on the employer. The most successful students already have ideas for their project before approaching faculty members. If the student does not know which faculty member might be interested, he/she should contact the Faculty Honors Adviser for guidance.
(Alternative) Honors Thesis Process
Department of Supply Chain Management

1) Students to attend at least 4 research seminars given by SCM faculty members and/or invited outside researchers.

2) Students prepare 5-10 page summary of research seminars, synthesizing from their perspectives.

3) Students pick one of the topics and prepare a literature review encompassing 10-15 articles that are current in the area. Relevant faculty member supervises and evaluates literature review in conjunction with department chair/assistant department chair/honors adviser.

4) Students present literature summary and likely future research in the area to their peer group as well as relevant faculty.

Administrative Issues:

Students are welcome and encouraged to pursue a more typical honors thesis if that is their wish.

Faculty member supervising the literature review/final product will be the First Reader on the student’s thesis.

One other faculty member must be on the thesis committee, but a community member may be the third person on the committee.

It is recommended that students interested in this option make plans to begin coming to department seminars as soon as possible. These typically take place on the first Friday of each month, but students should check with professors as to exact dates and times.