

GVPT Honors Thesis Timeline

GVPT honors students typically complete the thesis during the spring semester of their junior year and the fall semester of their senior year, but it is also possible to complete the thesis over the two semesters of one's senior year. The following timeline is based on the spring-junior/fall-senior model; students doing both semesters in their senior year should adjust the schedule accordingly.

FALL SEMESTER, JUNIOR YEAR (PRIOR TO BEGINNING THESIS)

All semester: Think (and read) about potential topics of interest

September or October: Arrange a meeting with the honors director to discuss possible thesis topics and advisors

Late October-Mid December: Submit a 5 paper "concept" paper to the honors director. This paper will describe your thesis topic in broad terms, and should include at least three citations to scholarly sources.

After you submit your concept paper, the honors director will give you the green light to line up a faculty advisor for your thesis.

December: Register for GVPT 396 for the spring semester. You will need to secure a faculty advisor before you register.

Winter break: Continue to read and think about your topic of interest.

SPRING SEMESTER, JUNIOR YEAR (GVPT 396)

January and February: Continue extensive reading.

End February: Thesis question should be clear

March: Continue reading, begin writing out potential arguments/ideas. Begin collecting data.

April: Continue reading. You should be starting to write at this point.

Mid-May: You should have completed a literature review, and have key parts of data collection completed.

End of Semester: You should have at least 20 pages of written work complete (a few pages less if writing a track 2 thesis is okay). You must share this with the honors director to get permission to enroll in 397 the following semester. If not yet complete, you can continue working on this over the summer to get permission to enroll in 397.

Note that faculty advisors will set their own expectations about progress on the thesis. The above is the minimum required by the honors director.

SUMMER BREAK

Students typically continue making progress on their thesis over the summer. This is a good time to get a jump start on finishing in the fall semester.

FALL SEMESTER, SENIOR YEAR (GVPT 397)

End September: Aim to have about 45-50 pages done if track 1, finalize all data analysis and start writing up findings if track 2.

End October: Aim to have about 60-70 pages done if track 1, work on revisions as suggested by your advisor. Aim to have data analysis section drafted if track 2.

Mid-November: Identify 2 additional faculty members to serve on your committee, in consultation with your advisor.

Late November: Have a complete draft done. Work on revisions suggested by advisor.

Late November/early December: Schedule a thesis defense around the last week of classes or finals week. You will need to coordinate with your thesis committee to do this. Book a room through the GVPT main office.

Early December: Send your final thesis to your committee.

Mid-December: Defend your thesis. Contact the honors director with the results!