

## 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 THE THESIS)

- September:** Attend the GVPT Honors Informational Event.
- All Semester:** Think (and read) about potential topics of interest for your thesis.
- Mid-Oct – Mid-Dec:** Line up a faculty advisor for your thesis.  
You will want to have a general topic of interest when you approach faculty members. While this can technically wait until the start of the following semester, you really want to hit the ground running at that point and not be stressed about identifying an advisor. And faculty members' responsibilities tend to accumulate, so asking someone earlier rather than later is best.
- Early December:** Register for GVPT 396 for the Spring semester if you haven't.  
You will need to have secured a faculty advisor in order to register.
- Winter Break:** Continue to read and think about your topic of interest.

### SPRING SEMESTER, JUNIOR YEAR (1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER OF THE THESIS, GVPT 396)

- End January:** Identify an advisor and register for 396 if you haven't.
- February:** Read extensively (with written summaries and reactions).
- End February:** The thesis question should be well defined.
- March:** Read extensively, and begin writing out your potential argument/ideas.  
If you are working with data, begin compiling data you might use.
- April – Mid-May:** Read, think, write, analyze data. Repeat.

**Mid-May:** You should have an extensive literature review, a draft of your own ideas and theory, and/or data analysis done (depending on the Track you do). You should also have a detailed outline of the structure of your thesis showing how the argument will be developed.

**End May:** Share with the Honors Program Director the required thesis output (see "Thesis Details and Expectations" document on GVPT Honors website). Register for 397 (if you have not yet done so).  
Expectations are 20 pages of written material for Track 1 or 12 pages of written material plus evidence of data compilation and analysis for Track 2. If the work is not done by the end of the semester, the student can continue to develop material prior to the start of the second semester. This output must be shared prior to enrollment in GVPT 397.

Note: your advisor may have additional or different expectations, but at a minimum you should have this to share with the program director.

## **SUMMER BREAK**

Students who do well and enjoy the process typically do some work during the summer. Data analysis, case research, and study of the primary and secondary sources are good goals for the summer.

## **FALL SEMESTER, SENIOR YEAR (2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER OF THE THESIS, GVPT 397)**

**September:** Draft 25-30 pages (or finalize data analysis for Track 2).

This may be the equivalent of two chapters. You may use and build on the material you have already written, but now doing so with the intent that it be part of the actual thesis.

Note: you may also be expected to do revisions as you submit chapters to your advisor.

**October:** Draft 25-30 pages (or write up the data analysis section for Track 2).

This may be two additional chapters. If the September chapters focused on the foundation of the thesis, these chapters might focus more on evidence.

Note: you may also be expected to do revisions as you submit chapters to your advisor.

- Early November:*** Draft remaining content (or refine the front half of the paper for Track 2).
- Mid-November:*** Identify two additional committee members for thesis defense.
- Late November:*** Revise the thesis.  
Determine a defense date/time and reserve a room with GVPT or CIDCM.  
Submit your thesis title to the GVPT Honors Program Assistant.
- Early December:*** Send the final version to committee members.
- Early-Mid Dec:*** Defend the thesis and submit a final draft to the GVPT Honors Program.
- Mid-December:*** Complete the Honors program survey.