

Criteria for Nomination of an Honors Thesis for Pass with Distinction

An Honors thesis should be nominated for Pass with Distinction when the faculty evaluators, considering the totality of the thesis presentation, both oral and written, feel that the thesis rises above the level of the “acceptable” or even “excellent” rating. It is important to remember that it is the total performance that is being judged for Pass with Distinction, not either the oral or written documents separately. This award should recognize the best of the best. There is no limit on the number of Honors theses that can be nominated or chosen for this recognition by the Honors Council.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A PASS WITH DISTINCTION THESIS

- The written document shall be well written, and there should be few to no grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors. The writing should be clear and convey the writer’s ideas readily. The précis shall be written in a manner that clearly defines the problem or question and provides answers to said problems or questions in a language that is readily understandable by the educated academic.
- The oral presentation shall be delivered with confidence and clarity of thought and language. The presenter shall answer all questions with confidence and knowledge.
- The overall performance of the Honors student on the written and oral presentations shall approach that of a successful Masters student in his/her respective academic fields.
- The expectation is that the Pass with Distinction thesis will reflect new or novel findings or interpretations in the academic field, either of which will lead to a formal journal publication or oral presentation at a regional or national professional meeting.