



## Signature Honors Project Contract: Thesis Option

*\*This form must be filled out using the free adobe reader app, which may be downloaded via <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>*

### **PART 1: Student Information**

Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Overall GPA at ECU: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Honors Hours Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PART 2: Signature Honors Project Information**

Signature Honors Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: The title of your Signature honors project must fit tightly with the disciplines that you are studying.*

### **Thesis Description:**

In a cohesive and well-written document, please describe your planned research project. To achieve consistency across a wide range of disciplines, please use the headings below as your first-level headings. You may choose to add a second level of headings to focus your narrative. This proposal should be written with care and in consultation with your faculty mentor. While the length of the proposal narrative may vary considerably from one student to the next, a proposal less than three pages is likely to lack detail and rigor.

**Please answer the following prompts within a M.S. Word document and attach it at the end of the contract.**

- **Introduction:** This section addresses the “why” of your research. This section should indicate why this study is valuable in the context of your field. In other words, what problem exists that you are investigating?
- **Background:** This section addresses the background for the reader. What is important to know about the study? Use literature to situate your study.
- **Purpose of the study:** This section addresses the “what” of your research. Summarize what your research will achieve.
- **Research question(s) or hypotheses:** Many empirical studies use research questions or hypotheses as a guide. *If this is appropriate for your research*, please clearly state these after sharing your purpose. If this is not appropriate, then please state your guiding questions. What questions are guiding your research?
- **Methodology:** This section will address the “how” of your research. What type of data will you use to achieve your study purpose? How will you access these data? What procedures will you follow?
- **Closure:** This section concludes your proposal by stating how this research will add value to your field and your career path. As you may recall, an oral presentation is a required component of your Signature Honors Project. Mention your initial thoughts regarding where you might present your research next year.

**Timeline:** Please include your first and second semester timelines at the end of your proposal.

*Note: This is a template for a research-based SHP using primary data collection. Please adapt this template for your project.*

Please discuss with your faculty mentor the tasks that you will accomplish in the first course and list them below.

The semester one timeline could include the following:

- Review of literature
- Significance of current study
- Refining your purpose
- IRB approval (if appropriate)
- Initial planning for your presentation

<b>Semester One</b>	<b>Goal(s) for the week</b>	<b>Broad goal</b>
<i>Sample Week 1</i>	<i>Read 5 articles, write abstracts for each</i>	<i>Working toward a review of literature</i>
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		
Week 8		
Week 9		
Week 10		
Week 11		
Week 12		
Week 13		
Week 14		
Week 15		
Week 16		

Please discuss with your faculty mentor the tasks that you will accomplish in the second course and list them below. The semester two timeline could include the following:

*Note: This is a template for a research-based SHP using primary data collection. Please adapt this template for your project.*

- Data collection techniques (training) and data management
- Analysis and Results
- Consideration of results/implications/recommendations
- Presentation preparation
- Submission of final document

<b>Semester Two</b>	<b>Goal(s) for the week</b>	<b>Broad Goal</b>
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		
Week 8		
Week 9		
Week 10		
Week 11		
Week 12		
Weeks 13-16	Written document finalized and uploaded to Vireo and submitted to the Honors College for approval for the graduate with the Honors College designation.	

### **Part 3: Course Registration**

1. First, check to see if your major or minor discipline (the area that coordinates with your project's topic) has an honors thesis class already established. For example, Neuroscience has NEUR 4950 (3 credit hours) and NEUR 4951 (3 credit hours). If the area has an honors thesis class already established, then register yourself for those courses during the appropriate honors registration window. Remember your signature honors project experience must equal a 6 credit hour experience over two semesters.
2. If you do not have a major or minor discipline thesis class established in the area that you are proposing for your Signature Honors Project, then we will create a section of HNRS 4500 (first course) and HNRS 4550 (second course) for you after you receive approval for your Signature Honors Project.
3. Now, please list the courses you plan to take and when you plan to take them:

First Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Course\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Only students in biology will need to have three courses to complete SHP requirements.

### **PART 4: Contractual Statements with Faculty Mentor Verification**

Please read each statement, check each box and sign below. The last statement in bold is to be checked by the faculty mentor, then the mentor should sign below verifying they have also read all of the statements below.

I understand that my Signature Honors Project must be an original project completed during my senior year. I understand that I must use MLA or APA format for my paper, and I need to discuss paper lengths, paper format, etc. with my faculty mentor.

I understand that I need to discuss any IRB needs relative to my project with my faculty mentor. We will comply with all IRB requirements, if necessary.

I understand that during my enrollment in my SHP courses, I am required to give two oral presentations on my project. One presentation is required at Research and Creative Achievement Week (RCAW) scheduled every spring, and one additional public presentation should occur. Public presentations may be during conferences, symposiums, workshops, senior shows or performances, etc.

I understand that I must use the official Honors College poster template and Honors College PowerPoint template when delivering presentations on behalf of ECU's

Honors College and that I must submit the presentations to my faculty mentor at least two days prior to the presentation date for review.

I understand that I must submit my final SHP electronically on Reading Day. I

understand that I will upload my SHP using Appendix A from the SHP Manual.

Additionally, I understand the first page of my SHP must follow the Honors College Signature Honors Project Title Page template.

I understand that my final paper will be uploaded into ECU's online repository, *The Scholarship*, database. I have read, understand and agree with Joyner Library's Non-Exclusive Distribution License found in the license section of Vireo (Piratescholars.ecu.edu)

**I have read and agree with the student's responses to the proposed research narrative shown in Part 2.**

\*to be checked by faculty mentor

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Faculty Mentor Signature

Date

*(Implies consent for the project and willingness to advise for both courses)*

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Student's Signature

Date

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Faculty Mentor's Chair/Director Signature

Date

**Part 5: Faculty Mentor Information for the Credentialing Process**

*To be completed by the faculty mentor:*

**Required Section:**

Faculty Mentor's Full Name:

Department:

Phone:

Email address:

Faculty Mentor's Department Chair:

College:

Do you hold a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to the content being explored in the proposed project?

(Faculty mentor, please circle one)  YES     NO\*

*\*If you checked no, please attach a brief description to satisfy standard alternate credentialing.*

*Note: The faculty mentor is required to hold a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to the content being explored in this signature honors project. If this is not the case the faculty mentor may provide as an attachment a brief description of alternate qualifications that would permit standard alternate credentialing for this project.*

**Optional Section:** Complete only if you have a co-mentor.

Co-mentor's Full Name:

Department:

Phone:

Email address:

Faculty Mentor's Department Chair:

College:

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Signature Honors College Dean

Date

Credential Approval: Signature of Dean required after completion the contract and proposal.