

Application to Enroll in Senior Thesis - FANR 4990R

Due date for fall enrollment: Last day of classes in previous spring semester

Due date for spring enrollment: Midterm day in previous fall semester

Name: _____

Email: _____

Application Date: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Current Cumulative GPA: _____

Current Warnell GPA: _____

How many hours do you plan to register for FANR 4990? _____

Please circle which semester you plan to register

Spring or Fall

Course Description

Senior Thesis is an autonomous capstone requirement under the direct supervision of a faculty research advisor. Students will write a thesis that describes their systematic and in-depth inquiry into a fundamental, unknown, scientific, economic, or social problem. The student will apply understanding of the discipline to identify or shape the research question and skills and techniques learned to complete the research project. The student will have gathered data, synthesized relevant literature, analyzed, and interpreted data. The student will demonstrate in writing the contribution to the discovery and interpretation of knowledge significant to their field of study. The student will have presented results in the form of a properly formatted, professionally rigorous thesis document and through the formal presentation of the thesis to faculty and peers during an approved event (e.g., Senior Thesis and Senior Project Symposium). The student is also required is required to attend a minimum number of presentations by peers.

- On a separate page, provide the following information (in brief terms):
 - Explain how Senior Thesis relates to your future plans.
 - List courses you have taken that are relevant to your thesis project.
 - List relevant research or other experiences.
- Attach a 2-3 page research prospectus to your application. The prospectus should include: (1) a cover sheet (with tentative title, student's name, and name of faculty advisor); (2) general background including relevant literature; (3) problem statement and associated research objectives, questions or hypotheses; (4) an outlined methodology including general research design, sampling or data collection procedures, and general analytical approaches; (5) anticipated results and significance of proposed research; and (6) a timeline including any work completed by the student prior to enrolling in senior thesis. The prospectus may be written for a general audience, and need not be overly technical in detail.

Each application will be reviewed based upon the rigor of the data collection and methodology employed).

- Applicants that do not have a Warnell GPA of 3.0 or better, should also attach letters of appeal from (1) the applicant and (2) the thesis advisor.

I have reviewed and understand the requirements and process (see page 2) for completion of Senior Thesis.

Thesis Applicant: _____
Print Name

Applicant's Signature

I have reviewed the requirements and expected process for completion of Senior Thesis with this student, and agree to serve as their thesis advisor. I also have reviewed and approved the research prospectus included with this application.

Thesis Advisor: _____
Print Name

Thesis Advisor's Signature

Date

Approved by: _____
Gary T. Green, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs

Guidelines for Initiating and Completing Senior Thesis (FANR 4990R)

Effective Fall 2018

Summary

(1) Students may use a combination of up to 3 credit hours of *Directed Research* (FANR 4970R or 4980R) before their final semester with a minimum of 1 credit hour of *Senior Thesis* (FANR 4990R) in their final semester, or students can complete 4 credit hours of *Senior Thesis* in their final semester. Though not required, students considering Senior Thesis are encouraged to complete 1-3 credit hours of *Directed Research* credits prior to their final semester.

Examples of How Students May Satisfy the Senior Thesis Requirement:

a. Student can complete 4 credit hours of FANR 4990R within their final semester.

or

b. Student can complete 2 credit hours of FANR 4970R in a prior semester, and 2 credit hours of FANR 4990R in their final semester.

or

c. Student can complete 1 credit hour of FANR 4970R in a prior semester, 2 credit hours of FANR 4980R the following semester, and 1 credit hour of FANR 4990R their final semester.

- (2) The semester before enrolling in *Senior Thesis*, students must submit a Senior Thesis Proposal and Application that has been signed by the supervising faculty member to the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs by the announced deadline. Any students not meeting the minimum academic requirements for *Senior Thesis* must also include an appeal letter and a letter of support and justification from their supervising faculty member.
- (3) Students enrolled in *Senior Thesis* will have a mandatory group meeting with the Senior Thesis Coordinator who will provide additional mentoring and guidance on completing the thesis and final presentation.
- (4) The thesis will be evaluated and approved by the supervising faculty member and a second faculty reader identified by the student and their faculty member. The thesis presentation will be evaluated by the supervising faculty member and any additional faculty present at the presentation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Gary Green, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs (gtgreen@uga.edu).

Senior Thesis Mechanics

Participation in senior thesis requires the submission of a proposal the prior semester that was approved by the supervising faculty member and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The thesis research is completed and the thesis is written in close collaboration with the research advisor. Completion of the thesis is supported by a Senior Thesis Coordinator [hereafter referred to as the “coordinator”] by enrollment in FANR 4990 (*Senior Thesis*). The coordinator will facilitate student progress throughout the semester. This will include mandatory meetings ~ weekly with the coordinator and peers, workshops to learn about tools and discuss strategies for managing thesis completion, peer review activities, and preparation for thesis presentations.

Importantly, the coordinator does not replace the primary role of the research advisor in guiding the thesis research and developing the thesis document. The student’s overall performance in executing their thesis will be evaluated by the research advisor using the rubric provided. The thesis document will be approved and graded by the research advisor and a second faculty reader using the rubric provided. The thesis presentation will be evaluated by the research advisor and any additional faculty present at the presentation using the rubric provided. The coordinator will assign a professionalism and participation grade and calculate and submit each student’s final grade based on a standard formula using the grades received from the research mentor and evaluating faculty.

Senior Thesis Grade Breakdown

Criteria	Percentage of grade	Assigned by	Comments
Overall effort on thesis project	45%	research mentor	This grade is based on the faculty mentor’s judgement of the student’s overall effort at completing the thesis project and meeting the proposed goals. A rubric is provided for the faculty mentor’s evaluation.
Thesis document	30%	average of grades from research mentor and secondary faculty reader	The faculty mentor and the secondary faculty reader will evaluate the thesis using the learning outcomes rubric, assign a letter or percentage grade, and provide the student with feedback. The faculty mentor may, at their discretion, adjust the final grade of the thesis document based on revisions a student elects to make after receiving feedback from the mentor and secondary reader. Revisions are not required and are completed at the discretion of the mentor and student.
Thesis presentation	15%	average of evaluations from all faculty present at the presentation	All faculty present during the student’s presentation will be provided with a rubric, which will be summarized for a grade and feedback will be provided to the student.
Participation and professionalism	10%	coordinator	Determined by student’s attendance, preparedness, and participation during peer group meetings. This includes submitting materials on time for evaluation by faculty and peers. Students must also attend a minimum of three Senior Thesis or Senior Project peer presentations.