In order to qualify for graduation with an honors distinction, Montana Tech honors students must fulfill a set of academic requirements, including the honors research thesis. Students should begin this process during their Junior Year, discussing possible projects with a faculty member(s) in their discipline(s) as well their current honors mentor. These theses may take various forms and result in a written research thesis, a performance, exhibit, or documentary, an experiment or analysis, etc., depending on the student’s major. Members of the Honors Committee are open to discuss possibilities in more detail with students at any time.

Regardless of the discipline(s), topic(s), or nature of the project, all honors research theses must include the following elements:

- Each project must involve a significant original research component. Students may use individual or group capstone or senior design projects as a basis for their honors thesis, but must add a significant original component for their thesis.

- Each project must involve some kind of written interpretation and analysis, even when the focus of the project is performance, film, software, exhibition, creative writing, service learning, or internship. This document should have a length and style appropriate to the student’s major discipline.

- Each project must be approved, supervised, and evaluated by a Montana Tech faculty member acting as the student’s mentor.

- Each project will culminate in a public presentation of the results. Students may make these presentations as part of departmental brown bags, Tech Honors Symposia, or off-campus conferences.

Honors theses are intended to provide Montana Tech Honors students with a significant and challenging capstone experience that encourages independent engagement within their planned discipline and collaboration with a faculty member in their discipline. These projects should allow students to experience, over multiple semesters, investigations into their planned disciplines and areas of interest.

Students are asked to prepare and submit to the Honors Committee the attached form three full semesters before their planned graduation. For most students, this will be the spring semester of their junior year. Students are also asked to enroll in a research methods course, or similar, within their major prior to submitting the approval form.
Honors Research Thesis Approval Form

Student

Student Name: ____________________________  Student ID#: ____________________________

Contact E-mail: ____________________________  Student ID#: ____________________________

A. Please attach a short description of your proposed thesis (approximately 250 words). Please include the planned title and the specific descriptions of the research, writing, and presentation components off the project.

B. Also indicate the planned honors independent study/research credits in which you plan to enroll to complete the project. Students are encouraged to enroll in a total of 3 to 6 credits of research hours during the course of the project.

Department: ____________________________  Course #: ____________________________

Number of Credits (per semester): ____________  Semester(s): ____________________________

Expected Completion Date: ____________________________

Expected Presentation:

☐ I plan to present during Honors Seminar.
☐ I plan to present during a departmental brown bag or similar
☐ I plan to present at an off-campus conference, please specify: ____________________________

Faculty Mentor

Faculty Name: ____________________________

Department: ____________________________  Email: ____________________________

A. Please attach a brief description of the requirements for completion. Please indicate the anticipated research outcomes, length/format of written assignment, and other specific requirements for award of credit

Student Signature and Date: ____________________________

Faculty Mentor Signature and Date: ____________________________

Honors Committee Signature and Date: ____________________________