

A Guide to Preparing Your Honors Thesis Prospectus

What is a prospectus?

The Thesis Prospectus should be an approximately 3 page document describing what you are going to do and how you are going to do it. There may be variations, but every prospectus should include a summary of your project and a brief timeline. Most should also include a brief bibliography.

First, the project summary should describe what you are doing for your thesis project and provide reasons for why you are doing it. You might think of the project summary as answering the following questions:

- What is the main issue of my thesis?
- Why is this issue important?
- How will I attempt to deal with this issue?
- What is my hypothesis?
- What are the larger implications of my project?

Note that your project summary does not have to answer these exact questions; they are merely provided as a guide.

Second, you should provide a brief timeline. This does not have to be minutely detailed, but it should give a general description of how you are going about completing your project. The timeline can include some retrospective elements (i.e. it could briefly describe what you have done over the past semester/year to work on the project).

Finally, if it is appropriate for your project, you should include a bibliography. Many of you are taking on a research paper project for your thesis. In this case, you should include a bibliography of the sources you have used so far. This bibliography does not have to be final or complete. If you are taking on a different kind of thesis project (such as a creative arts project) you may not need a bibliography—but if you are using sources in those cases you should note them. You should use the bibliographical style that is appropriate for your discipline.

When is the prospectus due?

The prospectus should be submitted electronically to honors by Oct. 9, 2020. You should submit your prospectus to your mentor for review and approval at least one week in advance of this deadline.