

Honors College Creative Theses

Students who are earning a major or minor in a creative field (music performance, creative writing, art practice, graphic design, SAMP, architecture, film) may choose to carry out either a creative thesis or a traditional research project. **The creative thesis includes both the creative work as well as an essay that examines the critical principles used to create and construct the portfolio, performance, or text.** Students may write about an aspect of their craft they would like to highlight or what their process has been in reaching their creative goal. Part of the essay must situate the work in the context of their chosen genre, including an annotated list/bibliography of references and/or influences.

Graphic Design majors will take DES 470 and DES 471 instead of HON 403 Thesis I and II to fulfill thesis credit requirements. All GD students are expected to present their theses at the Honors Thesis Symposium and submit it via PDX Scholar. [This memo](#), written by Prof. Meredith James, describes both the timeline and expectations for the GD/Honors thesis.

Creative Writing majors may find the [instructions for the Senior Portfolio](#) to be a useful method of understanding the expectations of the research essay. If you would like to publish your writing in a future book or journal, speak with Cornelia about placing an embargo on your thesis so that it is not publicly available.

Art Practice majors may choose to embark on their theses while enrolled in Art 336: BFA Research and Proposal. Speak with Brianna about double-counting that class to Honors thesis requirements, and about the timeline of taking HON 403: Thesis Continuation.

Music Performance majors who are expected to create and perform a senior recital may choose to combine this requirement with their senior thesis. In this case, the recital itself is the creative work, and the accompanying essay is where you will document the research that you carried out and the influences you consulted in creating your performance and choosing your pieces. (You may also choose to write a thesis about a different subject entirely.)