

**Honors Policy Change in Response to COVID-19**  
**3/31/20**

### **Thesis Completion and Defense After Graduation**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FSU Honors Program has created a new, time-limited policy to help *spring 2020 or summer 2020 graduates* working on an honors thesis to complete their theses after graduation. Specifically, those students who wish to delay their thesis defense until summer or fall semester of 2020 will be able to receive transcript notation for the thesis after they graduate.

We know how much the thesis project means to all of you and that many of you have lost – or experienced a significant disruption of – the time and resources necessary to bring your thesis project to fruition by the end of spring 2020. We hope this temporary policy change allows you to succeed with as little stress as possible.

#### **Criteria to Qualify for an Extension**

Students graduating in spring 2020 who wish to receive transcript notation for completion of the HITM thesis after graduation must:

- have submitted all required HITM paperwork by Friday, January 31, 2020 (e.g., Defense Announcement Form).
- have completed at least one prior semester of the thesis course successfully within the prior two semesters.
- pass the HITM thesis course in which they are enrolled this semester with a letter grade of C- or an "S" in an S/U course.
- defend and submit the signed Defense Certificate Form by the fall honors deadline (i.e., before the end of fall semester 2020).

Students opting for this extension *do not* need to enroll in thesis hours after graduation. Once students email the signed Defense Certificate Form to [HITM@fsu.edu](mailto:HITM@fsu.edu) the Honors Program office will request that the Registrar's office update the student's transcript to show HITM completion.

#### **Steps to Take Now**

If you would like to delay your defense until summer or fall, please:

- Request permission from your thesis director and all committee members to defend your thesis either by the end of summer 2020 or of fall 2020.
- Contact Dr. Michael Franklin to request a DocuSign form to delay your defense.
- Obtain signatures via the DocuSign form from each committee member and email the completed form to [HITM@fsu.edu](mailto:HITM@fsu.edu) by **April 20**.
- With advice from your thesis director, write a simple completion plan including a general timeline and submit that by the last day of spring 2020.

We wish all students much success and joy in the remaining weeks of the semester and in future pursuits!