

## How to Apply

### General Guidelines

All FTT juniors are eligible to apply for the Senior Thesis Program. You must be capable of completing an intensive research project of high quality across your senior year. For any proposed project, it is expected that you will by the start of your senior year have completed advanced classes in the area in which you want to work and will possess the basic skills required to complete the project. Prerequisites for thesis film production projects are especially stringent. Exceptions will only be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

### Before You Apply

- Begin thinking about ideas for your project and talk them over with your professors and friends. Reflect on classes or projects that have inspired you and topics you would like to explore further.
- Develop some research questions and consider how you would like to approach them. Decide on the format of your project: will it be a film? A play or screenplay? A digital project? An historical or critical analysis?
- Talk to several faculty members with whom you would like to work. Share your ideas with them and ask if they would consider serving as your thesis director or could recommend someone else.

The exact length of the project will be determined in consultation with your FTT advisor; however, the following parameters may help you plan:

- Critical studies projects (i.e. history, theory, dramaturgy, analysis) will likely consist of a fifty-page research paper.
- Production projects will likely consist of a creative product (i.e. script, film production, video essay, video or web production, theatrical production) accompanied by a ten to fifteen- page research paper that discusses relevant intellectual concepts underlying the creative project.
- Thesis film productions may be no longer than 10-15 minutes in length in their final state, and a thesis film screenplay cannot be feature-length (you can write a short film or a single act of a feature or a set of scenes).

### Application Process

Applications are due on **April 1 of your junior year** and should be emailed to Professor Susan Ohmer ([sohmer@nd.edu](mailto:sohmer@nd.edu)). A complete application consists of the following materials:

- A one to two-page cover letter explaining why the opportunity to complete a thesis project is of value to you and why you believe you are capable of completing the project;
- A list of all FTT courses you have taken and with which faculty members;

- A one to two-page proposal for the thesis project, including a description of the research or creative plan you expect to undertake and a preliminary bibliography with a minimum of five sources;
- A letter of support from an FTT faculty member (this can be emailed to Professor Ohmer by the recommender rather than included with the proposal);
- A sample of your previous work that indicates your potential to complete the proposed thesis project, such as a course paper, a screenplay, a portfolio, etc.

Note: Film production students may apply individually or in pairs, but individual applicants may later be paired with another student in their senior year to undertake the project.

### **Evaluation Process**

Senior Thesis applications will be reviewed by the Thesis & Honors Committee, and not all students will be accepted into the program.

Acceptance will be based primarily on the viability and value of the proposed project, the level of faculty support for your project, the Committee's judgment of your ability to complete the project, and your academic standing within FTT and the university. (Note: in applying for the thesis program, you grant permission for the Thesis Committee to check your GPA.)

You will be informed of the approval decision in time for fall registration.

Once you are enrolled in the program, you may not subsequently change a thesis topic without approval from your advisor and the Thesis Committee. If an initially approved topic turns out to be untenable, you will likely be dropped from the program.