

FTT Thesis: Senior Year Plan (updated 4.8.22)

By the time of registration for senior-year fall courses, accepted students will confirm a faculty member who will serve as their advisor for the thesis.

Fall Semester Senior Year

All students completing a senior thesis will register for: FTT 43610: The Senior Thesis Workshop (1 credit hour) during the fall semester. This class, which meets every other Friday, enables students to share work in progress with each other and to strengthen their skills in managing complex projects.

In addition, students will register for **either** FTT 48000: Thesis and Undergrad Research (3 credit hours) with their advisor **or** a course recommended by the advisor that is related to their project. For example, students completing a narrative film project will take a creative development course in the fall and Advanced Production in the spring, while students completing a documentary production project will take Documentary Production in the fall and a three-credit Thesis & Undergrad Research course with their advisor in the spring. Any student who refuses to take the advisor-recommended courses will be dropped from the program.

Note: Only one "Thesis & Undergrad" course will count as an upper-level elective toward the standard FTT major requirements.

Near the end of the fall semester, senior thesis students will submit a progress report to their advisors and the Thesis & Honors Committee. If the thesis advisor and the Committee agree that the project is progressing at an acceptable rate and quality level, the student will be given the appropriate grade in their thesis-related course and approved to enroll in required courses for the spring. Those students not deemed to be progressing at an acceptable rate and quality level will be graded appropriately for their work in the fall course of study and will not continue in the Senior Thesis Program in the spring.

Spring Semester Senior Year

Students should register for FTT 48000: Thesis and Undergrad Research (3 credit hours) or for a class recommended by their advisor that is related to their thesis project.

Beginning in Spring 2023, students who are writing a critical studies thesis may count their spring Thesis and Undergrad Research course towards the WRIT University requirement. Students wishing to apply their thesis towards this requirement must register for a special section, FTT 48001 in the spring. Completion of the WRIT requirement will be satisfied upon completion of the critical studies thesis.

Throughout their time in the Thesis program, students must maintain solid academic standing within FTT and the university. Any student whose department or university GPA drops below a 3.0 can be dropped from the program, and individual grade deficiencies in FTT courses may also result in the student being dropped from the program. (Note: In being part of the Thesis program, you give permission for the Thesis Committee to check your GPA and course grades as necessary to determine your academic standing.)

In late spring of their senior year, Senior Thesis Program students will submit a completed draft of their thesis project to their advisor. The Committee, in consultation with the advisor, will then determine if the project will be designated as a Senior Thesis or a Senior Thesis with Honors. The Honors designation requires exemplary work in all facets of the program across the academic year. These facets include attendance and participation during the Senior Thesis Workshop, frequent contact and interaction with the advisor, following all instructions and requirements set forth by the advisor, and producing work of exceptional quality.

All senior thesis students present their work at a departmental celebration of student scholarship in early May. It is also highly recommended that students consider sharing their projects during the Undergraduate Scholars Conference held at Notre Dame in late April.