

GUIDELINES FOR THE WRITING OF SENIOR THESES

Department of Classics

Brown University

(September 2024)

1. The candidate for honors in the Department of Classics ordinarily will be entering his/her seventh semester of study and must have an “A” average (3.50 or higher on a 4.00 scale) in the concentration.
2. By the end of the registration period in September of the senior year, the candidate for honors must obtain the approval of a thesis advisor, who agrees to work with him/her in the research and writing of the thesis and who will serve as the first reader of the completed work.
3. The honors candidate should register for CLAS 1990, GREK 1990, LATN 1990, or SANS 1990, “Conference Especially for Honors Students,” for the fall semester, being sure to indicate the section number of the thesis advisor (indicated on Banner). The candidate should also register for CLAS 1990, GREK 1990, LATN 1990, or SANS 1990 for the spring semester in order to complete the thesis, again registering for the appropriate section. The director of the thesis will need to grant an override for both courses. Neither course is **ordinarily** counted toward the concentration in Classics.
4. A Classics honors thesis will usually take the form of a research paper; it is expected to make an original contribution to scholarship on a topic, to be chosen and developed in close consultation with the candidate’s advisor. Students are advised to identify an advisor and topic by the end of their junior year.

Students wishing to undertake a translation into English must adhere to the [guidelines](#) for such a work provided by the University’s Department of French:

This choice must be made with prudence and in close consultation with the thesis advisor, so that there is agreement on the difficulty level of the chosen text, the argument for translating it, and expected standards of ambitiousness and precision in the translation. . . . Students may choose to translate a whole work, select excerpts, or a series of texts (as in the case of poems or shorter narratives). In all cases, a translation thesis must, to qualify for Honors, include a critical introduction or preface (a minimum of 10 pages) in which the translator demonstrates advanced knowledge of the place of the chosen text in its original cultural and literary context, engages reasonably with scholarship pertaining to the original text and its history of translation (if applicable), and shows a mature understanding of the stakes and debates of translation as a practice.

Students wishing to undertake a composition project, including translation into an ancient language, should meet the standards commonly expected in a prose composition course; that is, scrupulously correct grammar and diction (and meter, if the project involves verse translation). The thesis should include a critical introduction or preface



(a minimum of 10 pages) in which the translator explains the ideas governing the choice of phrasing, style, register, or whatever is germane.

5. No later than Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, the candidate should submit to the thesis advisor and to the concentration advisor a written thesis proposal, together with a brief bibliography (4-7 pages *in toto*), to be reviewed by the honors committee for feedback. The proposal should include a clear indication of:

- the question to be examined
- the research the candidate has undertaken so far, as well as the direction and extent of further research intended
- the chapter divisions proposed for the thesis

The thesis advisor should submit a brief report on the status of the project at this point as well.

6. No later than President's Day long weekend in February, the candidate should submit one completed chapter of the thesis to the advisor and the concentration advisor, who will review it with the committee and offer feedback on the project, including a recommendation as to whether it should proceed as an honors thesis or a capstone. As in October, the thesis advisor should submit a brief report on the status of the project at this point as well.

7. The completed thesis must be submitted to the advisor and the concentration advisor by April 15. The thesis advisor should again submit separately a brief report and recommendation. **The completed thesis must be at least 12 000 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography) in length.** It should be prefaced by a cover sheet in format appended to theses guidelines.

8. Recommendation for honors will be determined by a committee composed of the concentration advisor and two other members of the Classics department. The committee will be convened and chaired by the concentration advisor, who will also communicate decisions on Honors to the university.

9. In the event that the candidate does not complete the thesis, a written project of at least twenty pages must be submitted to the advisor in order to receive credit for CLAS 1990, GREK 1990, LATN 1990, or SANS 1990. In this case, the work may be designated a capstone project.

10. The College Curriculum Council designates honors officially, upon the recommendation of the Department. Credit for CLAS 1990 GREK 1990, LATN 1990, or SANS 1990 is awarded independently of the decision to award honors.

11. A student may upload the completed honors thesis to the Brown Library's archive at <https://repository.library.brown.edu/deposits/>

THESIS TITLE

By Name of student

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in the
Department of Classics at Brown University

Thesis Advisor:

Date: