



## UNDERGRADUATE HONORS IN ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS

Graduating with Latin Honors from the University of Colorado is one way to establish an impressive academic record. It also demonstrates that you have the ability to complete a sustained research project above and beyond the normal papers required in university courses. It is a significant mark of distinction on your academic record.

Writing an Honors thesis gives you the opportunity to work closely with one faculty member at an advanced level within your chosen academic discipline, and to advance your own academic interests and training. Although researching and writing a thesis in your senior year will add substantially to your workload, it will also enrich your academic experience at the University of Colorado and may improve your future prospects for success.

### Interested in Honors? What's next?

1. To qualify, you must be a major in Chinese or Japanese with a 3.5 GPA in your major courses and an overall GPA above 3.0. This does not guarantee that you will be able to register for a thesis; it is simply a qualifying condition.
2. Meet with the ALC Honors advisor to discuss your interest in pursuing an Honors Thesis project. Discuss the steps you will need to take, outlined below, to successfully register for a thesis.
3. Check the Honors Council website for deadlines (<https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation>) and the required information to register for your thesis, which must be filed the semester *before* you intend to defend your thesis and graduate.
4. Now that you know the deadlines, meet with tenured or tenure-track (assistant professors and above) faculty members in ALC and discuss whether they can be your *thesis advisor*. It is good to have a project idea in advance so your potential advisor can decide if this is a project that they can help with or not.
5. Once you have an advisor, begin working with them on your thesis prospectus, bibliography, and timeline. In addition to the ALC Honors advisor and your thesis advisor, you will need the agreement of one more committee member from *outside* the ALC department. Discuss some options with your ALC advisors and approach your possible outside readers early in the process!
6. Complete all the necessary steps to register for the thesis. This includes the registration form which you and your ALC advisors need to sign, a thesis prospectus of 1-2 pages, a bibliography of at least 10 sources you are likely to consult in your research, and a proposed timeline for completing the project by the thesis defense deadline in the following semester. Submit this directly to the Honors Council office, **and** email copies of the prospectus, bibliography, timeline, and signed form to the ALC Honors advisor and the ALC Program Assistant for their internal records.



## Writing an Honors Thesis in Asian Languages and Civilizations

### 1. Content and Format

The core of your thesis will consist of research that draws on primary sources in Chinese or Japanese. The exact nature of this research and these sources are things that you and your advisor will work together to determine. Your thesis should demonstrate familiarity with the most important secondary sources relevant to the topic and an ability to place the discussion in the context of previous studies.

Your thesis must look like a formal academic paper, which includes: footnotes, a bibliography listing primary and secondary sources used, and, when relevant, substantive annotations to translations. For the format of footnotes, etc., you should use one of the standard style handbooks: e.g., *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Sheet*.

Your thesis should be at least 30–40 pages long (double-spaced, 1” margins, 12-point font).

### 2. Schedule

You should plan to meet regularly with your advisor, *usually once every two weeks*.

You will work closely with your advisor in the definition and execution of the project, and this faculty member will exercise major responsibility for the final evaluation of the completed thesis.

Generally, we recommend the following rough schedule for a May graduation:

- October 15 of previous semester: Submit prospectus (1–2 page description of topic, method, and sources) to thesis advisor.
- November 15: Submit bibliography and revised prospectus to thesis advisor.
- January 30: Submit first draft to thesis advisor.
- February 30: Submit second draft to thesis advisor.
- March 30: Submit final version to thesis advisor.
- Early April: Thesis defense. Bring an unofficial copy of your transcript, and file a “defense copy” of your thesis with the Honors Council.
- Check Honors Council for April date for final deadline of revised thesis upload to the Honors Council Thesis Repository.

If you are eligible (check with ALC’s academic advisor), you may enroll in the 3-credit-hour “CHIN/JPNS 4950: Honors Thesis” in your final semester. Discuss with your advisor if this makes sense for your project.