

**University of Florida**  
**College of Public Health and Health Professions**  
**HSC 4970 – Honors Thesis**  
**Thesis Requirements**

All students in the honors program in the Bachelor of Health Science Program must complete an executive summary of their research project in partial fulfillment of their honors requirements. The executive summary is considered the final paper requirement for the honors program. Below are the requirements for this paper. The paper must be approved first by your mentor and then by the dean's office. The current APA Style Manual should be used to guide formatting. Please check all due dates on the Honors Thesis (HSC 4970) syllabus. Papers will not be accepted past the deadlines noted. Please also remember that you must fulfill all other honors requirements in addition to completion of an acceptable executive summary to graduate with honors. Those additional requirements are delineated on the BHS web site and in the HSC 4970 Honors Thesis syllabus.

**Executive Summary Length:** maximum of 7 pages text; tables and figures may be extra

**Required Components with suggested page lengths:**

- Literature Review  
Approximately 2 pages. This section provides the background for your thesis study. Make sure you reference all major points with primary sources. Secondary sources are not acceptable if the primary sources are still in print. Label this section of the paper, **“Introduction”**
- Specific Aims/Hypotheses  
1-2 paragraphs. This section provides numbered/bulleted statements of your specific aims (what you aim to accomplish with your study) and your hypotheses. Label this section **“Aims and Hypotheses”**; it can be the last subsection of the introduction, or can stand on its own
- Methods  
1-2 pages. Describe your participants, procedures, apparatus, and independent and dependent measures. Label this section, **“Method”**.
- Results  
1 to 1 ½ pages. It is recommended that you organize and present your statistical analyses so that you address your specific aims/hypotheses in turn. Label this section, **“Results”**. Using APA style, refer to tables and figures by indicating where they go in text.
- Discussion  
1 to 1 ½ pages. The discussion is an interpretation of the results and should focus on the meaningfulness and implications of the results; it should make some reference back to the literature that motivated the research; a brief presentation of the limits to interpreting the results and potential next steps is often a good way to end the discussion. Do not take up discussion space by simply repeating the results. Label this section, **“Discussion”**

### **Additional Required Components:**

- Title Page
- Abstract (not to exceed 200 words)
- References
- Honors Thesis Submission Form

### **Format:**

- Presented in current APA style
- Typed using at least 11-point font (Arial recommended)
- Double-spaced
- 1-in margins all around

### **Writing Quality:**

The paper should be without spelling or typographical errors, should be well organized, and written clearly and concisely. Students will be required to rewrite or revise their papers if they are not correctly formatted or the quality of writing is problematic. Please remember that the quality of the paper needs to reflect the distinction of magna cum laude. Note also that papers are commonly returned to remove disabling language so be sensitive to person-first language when you write your paper.

1. Regarding disabling language, please note the following:
  - a) The word “person” should generally precede reference to a disability (i.e., “a person with hemiplegia” is preferable to “a hemiplegic” or “a hemiplegic patient”)
  - b) Utilize descriptions of participants that are accepted within your field. In some fields, “patient” is a perfectly acceptable way of describing a participant, but in other disciplines, it is frowned upon because it implies illness within a medical model. In these fields, “client” is preferred. Check with your mentor about what is appropriate for your discipline.
  - c) Avoid use of the term “normal” to describe a control group or comparison group without a disability. Such usage implies that disabilities are “abnormal”. Utilize “healthy” (as in, “healthy older adult group”, “healthy comparison group”, etc.) instead.
2. Your document should be fully spell-checked both by a word processor and by hand. Often, spell checkers in MS Word or other programs miss correctly spelled words that are wrong in context, or suggest that you make a spelling change that will result in poor grammar. It is best to use both human and digital checkers for the best quality.