

Theses in Absentia

Revised 2022

The Honors Program has had a long-standing policy stating that seniors shall not normally write theses or carry out honors projects in absentia. This policy was specifically restated to the faculty on September 24, 1992.

In response to the unique and challenging circumstances created by the pandemic, the Honors Committee surveyed all departments concerning whether students should be allowed to enroll in a senior thesis tutorial while off-campus. Sometimes this may occur when a student goes abroad in their senior year. A majority of departments (69%) indicated that seniors should be allowed to conduct thesis work in absentia when departments deem it appropriate with collaborative oversight by a Wesleyan faculty member.

For that reason, the Honors Committee is officially revising its policy to allow for these exceptions. A student seeking an exception based on this new policy will be required to petition the Honors Committee before the thesis or project is undertaken, and both the department chair and tutor must submit statements of support.

The Honors Committee will review all such requests and grant exceptions where appropriate. Students whose petitions are granted will need to be directly enrolled in a remote thesis tutorial by the Honors Coordinator.