Senior Thesis Guidelines

The Senior thesis in Theatre and Dance is an opportunity for Theatre and Dance majors to bring their interpretive (and creative) abilities, their writing skills, and their understanding of cultural traditions (one or more areas of the theatre and dance arts) to bear on a long-term, independent project in the form of a thesis that will serve as the culmination of their Theatre and Dance studies at the University of New Hampshire. The Senior Thesis for Theatre and Dance majors exemplifies each student’s accumulated knowledge and mastery of analysis and/or creativity.

It is vital that the student wishing to begin a thesis demonstrate sufficient preparation through coursework, have a good working knowledge of the topic proposed, and show evidence of strong research, creative, and writing skills.

The senior thesis may be a creative or a critical project.

Before registering for Senior Thesis, the student will submit the attached form.

Students wishing to write a creative project in the form of a play must have taken a course in Play Writing. Students wishing to undertake an analytical, critical, historical, or Theoretical paper must have taken at least one semester of Theatre History and at least one other course in the History/Theory area. (For purposes of this document, Directing is to be counted as a course in the History/Theory area.)

The student should work closely with at least one mentor. In some cases, the student and/or the mentor may wish a second reader to participate. Students writing theses for honors should have a panel of at least two readers, the mentor and a second reader. Whether it takes the form of a creative or critical paper, the senior thesis is usually 30-40 pages in length.

The student should meet with the mentor for continuing guidance at least once a week during the semester. By Week Three, the student should produce a proposal, outline, and a bibliography. By week seven, the student should produce a first draft; by week ten, a second draft, and by semester's end, the thesis in its final form.

At semester's end, the student will engage with the mentor or mentors in a conversation about the work: this conversation will be part thesis defence, part exit interview. The final grade will reflect the quality of the ongoing work, the final product, and the post-thesis conversation.