

Options for Honors Research Credit

Can I get Honors credit for thesis research?

Honors students can **earn up to 3 Honors credits for research** that serves as preparation for or part of their Honors thesis project. This research can be in the form of an Independent Study (499) with their thesis advisor, a research course (496) with a faculty member in their department, or, in some instances, a Capstone course in their major (check with Department Chair first). Up to (but no more than) 3 units may be taken, whether all in the same semester (e.g., 3 units of PSYC 499 in Fall 2026) or over the course of multiple semesters (e.g., 1 unit of EOSC 496 in Spring 2027, 2 units of EOSC 496 in Fall 2028) and must be a semester (or more) before they are enrolled in the HNRS 495 *Honors Senior Thesis Seminar* course. Research credit can not be granted concurrently with the HNRS 495 class.

Note that adjunct professors may not serve as a student's thesis advisor or professor of record for an Independent Study (499)

How to earn Honors credit for the research:

Independent Study: Enroll in the Independent Study (499) in your discipline with your thesis advisor before the add/drop period ends. In order to establish the 499 course, students must complete the [Independent Study form](#) in consultation with their thesis advisor. *Be sure to check "Yes" at the top of the form, where it asks if you are a member of the Honors Program, and if you'd like to receive honors credit for the 499.

499 in the College of Arts and Sciences:

If the 499 is with a faculty advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences, once the form is completed, contact the Executive Assistant of the thesis advisor's home department to initiate the signature and approval process via DocuSign.

499 in the Knauss School of Business:

If the 499 is with a faculty advisor in the Knauss School of Business, once the form is completed, the student can:

1. email honors@sandiego.edu to obtain Honors approval and signature
2. email their faculty advisor, who will be the professor of record for this course, for their signature.

Once Honors and the Faculty Advisors have signed, the student will follow these steps:

3. email the form to their Academic Advisor
4. their Advisor will send the form to KnaussStudentSuccess@sandiego.edu
5. the Student Success Senior Coordinator will route the form to the Department Chair and Assistant Dean for signatures through DocuSign.
6. Once approved the student, advisor, and Registrar will receive a copy.
7. The Registrar will register students for the class.

499 in the *Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering*:

The student should electronically fill out the form and collect signatures from the advisor and department chair before sending it to Honors for our signature. Be sure to copy everyone who signs the form when you email the final document to Associate Dean, Dr. Rick Olson, SMSEadvising@sandiego.edu

Research Course (e.g., 496 or Capstone in your major): If you are taking a 496 or a class in which you are conducting research for your Honors thesis (e.g., a capstone class), you may be eligible for Honors research units. You should contact your Department Chair, faculty advisor, and the Honors Program to find out if this is possible, since not all classes are eligible.

If it is possible to receive credit, the Honors Program will contact the registrar to make changes to your DegreeWorks audit. The earned research units will show after the semester has been completed and a grade is posted.

Note: *The Honors Office compiles a list of all the students taking 496 or Capstone courses for Honors credit that semester and sends that information to the Registrar. The Registrar adds the "H" attribute for those individual students after the final grades are posted.*

What if I forgot to request to have the "H" added to a research course that contributed to my Honors thesis? (e.g., forgot to ask for the "H" for a 496 in my 2nd year)

Email honors@sandiego.edu with the following information: your name, ID number, course title (e.g., BIOL 496), semester taken, and advisor's name. Please also explain in 1-2 sentences what the class is and how it relates to your Honors thesis/research.