

Deadlines and Background for Departmental Honors in Physics

January 2023

Overview

Large number of Honors Students (47) – sections can be a mix of 4610 and 4620 students.

3 sections, all on Friday

- a) 2:30 – 3:20 pm Mike Ritzwoller
- b) 3:35 – 4:25 pm Jun Ye
- c) 4:40 – 5:30 pm Jun Ye

<https://www.colorado.edu/honors/> (note: you need to go down to “Honors Theses” and look at links on the right hand side.) You can obtain older theses since 2012 from this page.

This course will help prepare you for your thesis defense, and to some degree your thesis as well.

Honors Webpage <https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation>

Thesis Resources

•[Registration forms and deadlines](#)

- [Honors Thesis - Getting Started](#) handout
- [Honors Council Representatives](#)
- [Thesis Defense Form for Faculty](#) (standard version)
- [Thesis Defense Form for Faculty](#) (electronic fillable version)
- [Thesis Information for Faculty](#)
- [Undergraduate Honors Theses Repository on CU Scholar](#)
- [Finding Older \(Printed\) Honors Theses](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#)
- [Honors Thesis Symposium](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Honors Convocation](#)

Spring 2023 Deadlines (this semester)

April 12, 2023: Last day to defend AND defense copy due by 11:59 pm

- The defense copy is the version of the thesis you defended in front of your committee. This is the version that we will use for consideration of Latin honors.
- Your title page must include your name, department, thesis title, and defense date as well as the names and departments of each of your committee members, with the thesis advisor specified.
- You will be required to submit an electronic copy in PDF format to honors@colorado.edu.
- This is also the last day to defend for this semester. If you defend prior to November 2nd, please email your defense copy to us at that time.

April 18, 2023: Final copy due on CU Scholar by 11:59 pm

- During your defense, your committee might suggest changes to your thesis. You have until November 8th to make any changes you wish. These changes will not be considered when determining your Latin honors designation.
- On or before November 8th, upload the final copy of your thesis to the Undergraduate Honors Thesis repository on CU Scholar. For details visit <https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation/cuscholar>
- If you need to make changes to your uploaded thesis, you will need to contact the CU Scholar Admin at cuscholaradmin@colorado.edu. Theses will be approved and posted to CU Scholar within four weeks.

April 21, 2023: Honors designations emailed by 5:00 pm

Students will be notified of their honors designation via their colorado.edu email

Honors Deadlines for Fall 2023

Fall 2023 Student Deadlines

May 2, 2023: Thesis registration due by 11:59 pm

- Please register online at: https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation#registration_and_deadlines-104
- You are welcome to submit prior to May 2nd; please allow at least 5 weeks for us to review and verify your registration. We will respond with an email confirmation and may have follow-up questions.

November 1, 2023: Last day to defend AND defense copy due by 11:59 pm

- The defense copy is the version of the thesis you defended in front of your committee. This is the version that we will use for consideration of Latin honors.
- Your title page must include your name, department, thesis title, and defense date as well as the names and departments of each of your committee members, with the thesis advisor specified.
- You will be required to submit an electronic copy in PDF format to honors@colorado.edu by 11:59 pm.
- This is also the last day to defend for this semester. If you defend prior to November 1st, please email your defense copy at that time.

November 7, 2023: Final copy due on CU Scholar by 11:59 pm

- During your defense, your committee might suggest changes to your thesis. You have until November 7th to make any changes you wish. These changes will not be considered when determining your Latin honors designation.
- On or before November 7th, upload the final copy of your thesis to the Undergraduate Honors Thesis repository on CU Scholar. For details visit <https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation/cuscholar>
- If you need to make changes to your uploaded thesis, you will need to contact the CU Scholar Admin at cuscholaradmin@colorado.edu. Theses will be approved and posted to CU Scholar within four weeks.

November 10, 2023: Honors designations emailed by 5:00 pm

- Students will be notified of their honors designation via their colorado.edu email address.

Registration

- Must be done by the electronic thesis registration process!

You will need:

- Your personal information, including your Student ID, email address, and expected graduation semester/year
- A prospectus – longish abstract – examples in Canvas
- Timeline to defense
- Bibliography – what references are you using
- A defense committee – make sure everyone agrees to serve and look at requirements.

Thesis Committee Composition

- At least three members of the CU Boulder faculty must be present, including the thesis advisor, an Honors Council representative, and a member of the faculty from outside of the student's major department.
- In cases where the thesis advisor is a member of the Honors Council, we recommend that one of the other committee members also be a member of the Honors Council.
- Committee members from outside of the university may be present but are not eligible to vote.
- Graduate students are not allowed to be a member of the committee.
- If advisor is outside of Physics (does count as outside member), then you still need two physics faculty.

How is the level of honors decided?

GPA + Thesis Work

- There are GPA requirements, but grades are only one part of the decision process.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 qualifies a student to be considered for honors, *cum laude*;
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 qualifies a student to be considered for honors, *magna cum laude*;
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.8 qualifies a student to be considered for honors, *summa cum laude*.
- While these guidelines qualify a student for consideration for a given level of honors, any honors earned are also based on the quality of the thesis and thesis defense. Depending on the quality of the thesis and thesis defense, a defense committee may recommend an honors designation other than what the guidelines suggest.

Additional Thesis Information

Key ingredients:

What is basis for the thesis and how was the basis defended or addressed? Why is the topic important to physics/discipline?

How was the defense presentation and how was the student at answering questions?

What is quality of the written document?

Are there any publications that include the student's name?

Has the student made other presentations at conferences or at meetings outside of CU?

What is the level of the work? Is it at the level of graduate work?

What will we do during our meeting times?

The course time is devoted principally to student presentations of their research, including follow-up Q&A's from the other students and the Prof.

For the next 4 weeks we will have 3-4 speakers per week with each talk 10 + 2 minutes per week.

In the remaining 10 weeks, two students will present in each section, with timing of 20 + 5 minutes per speaker.

~ 2 students will be assigned as a peer reviewer for each speaker, with the reviews to be returned anonymously to the speakers

Your Grade in the Class ----

Your grade in this class will be determined by a combination of

- 0) attendance
- 1) your in-class presentations
- 2) your participation in discussions/Q&A sessions
- 3) your reviews of the other students
- 4) Input from each of your research advisors, with the latter the most important aspect.

It is expected that the majority of the students will earn an 'A' for the course.

Presentation Reviews – start in a few weeks

- Clarity of Material
- Slide Quality
- Oral Communication Quality
- Ability to Answer Questions
- Excitement Level
- Is material presented at right level?
- Was sufficient background material provided

Next Week (Friday 2:30 – 3:20pm Class)

- Try to learn about research of everyone
- Will have four speakers ~ 10 minutes each tell us what they are doing or planning to do.

Parulekar, Anish	}	Jan. 27
Stewart, Thomas		
Shelby, Arlee		
Craig, Wil		
Chen, Mengjie	}	Feb. 3
Kumar, Aman Priyadarshi		
Robbins, Josie		
Gale, Skylar	}	Feb. 10
Du, Xinrun		
Press, Alana		
Graham-Howard, Shannen		
Entin, Nick	}	Feb. 17
Knuesel, Morgan		
Scheck, Andrew		
Wang, Tianyi		

Next Week (Friday 3:35 – 4:25pm Class)

- Try to learn about research of everyone
- Will have four speakers ~ 10 minutes each tell us what they are doing or planning to do

Hiri-o-tuppa, Tree	}	Jan. 27
Waldstreicher, Henry		
Porter, Sam		
Lang, Jordan	}	Feb. 3
Chowdhury, Ravin		
Hedlund, Keith		
Redd, Sophie	}	Feb. 10
Turner, Samuel		
Gentry, Eleanor Lindsay		
Chadda, Shivank	}	Feb. 17
Roberts, Elliot		
Schwan, Aaron		
Genne, Sierra	}	
Quinlan, Kyle		
Dietz, Will		

Next Week (Friday 4:40 – 5:30pm Class)

- Try to learn about research of everyone
- Will have four speakers ~ 10 minutes each tell us what they are doing or planning to do.

Petric, Roméo	}	Jan. 27
Toma, Alex		
Wu, Tianrun		
Ward-Chene, Nathaniel		
Mathur, Kabir	}	Feb. 3
Wootten, Katie		
Kamgar, Leo		
Bennett, Carter	}	Feb. 10
Cowan, Grace		
Wu, Larry		
Wang, Quanjin	}	Feb. 17
Ziegler, Konrad		
Hamilton, Ryan		
Kumar Keshava, Sanjay		
Leong, Jenny HouHeng		