

Honors Thesis

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Swarthmore College

1 Honors Options

1.1 Five Seminars Plus Thesis

This has been the only Honors program for the past 10 years.

1.2 Six Seminars

This was the typical Honors Program before 10 years ago. The seminars were 111 - 116 and all of them were required. In Astrophysics, 115 and 116 were substituted with Astro seminars.

2 Thesis Schedule

2.1 Fall Semester Senior Year

- Take Phys 180 - This course counts for 1 credit and will be treated like a seminar in terms of expected workload. This translates to approximately 130 hours of work, regularly checked, and will end at the end of the semester. The final product of this credited course will be a complete thesis.
- 1-credit thesis is due 12/15.
- Each thesis gets two readers, advisor and one other.
- Department faculty meet on Dec. 20 to decide for each honors student if they must pursue option 1 or option 2. In other words, the department decides if the thesis is acceptable, as is. We will assume that no further additions will be made except for corrections to existing content.
- Faculty must inform students if they can continue with the thesis prep or must take a sixth seminar.

2.2 Spring Semester Senior Year

- Advisor and second reader will spend a good deal of time reviewing thesis and heavily commenting it.
- Mid February, the commented thesis will be handed back and the student has two weeks to make final revisions.
- Thesis is complete before Spring Break