

School of Sustainability Honors Thesis Guidelines

Ideally, you should begin preparing for your Thesis during your junior year. Start by reviewing this [basic information](#) provided on the Barrett, The Honors College website. Thesis projects can be research-oriented or applied, practical projects that design and/or implement a solution to sustainability problems. In practice, many projects include both research and applied elements.

Identifying a Thesis Director

Plan to identify a thesis topic and director (first reader) by the end of your junior year. In order to develop a feasible project, you should contact faculty members with expertise or interests in your topic area. You can use the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation [Expert Search](#) tool to help identify potential faculty members.

As you contact professors, here are some tips for increasing their responsiveness:

- Personalize your emails to individual faculty, rather than sending a generic email to several professors. Let them know which specific areas of their expertise or research are applicable to your thesis interests.
- Briefly note your interests or ideas for your thesis and let them know your timeline for graduating. It could be useful to attach your resume so they can get a sense of your professional experiences and skillsets.
- Include your contact information and availability to expedite scheduling an in-person meeting.

To discuss your thesis ideas or to help identify relevant faculty members for your goals and interests, you may also contact the SOS Faculty Honors Advisor. This advisor changes on a yearly basis. Reach out directly to cgfadvising@asu.edu for help identifying the SOS Faculty Honors Advisor and their contact information.

Committee Requirements

Your thesis director must have a terminal degree in their area of study and be a regularly appointed member of the ASU faculty with professional expertise in the Thesis/Creative Project area. Approved titles may include: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Clinical Professor, Professor of Practice, Research Professor and Research Scientist.

A “second reader” is required, but this person does not have to be a faculty member at ASU.

Although only two committee members are required, three members may be appropriate in cases where additional expertise or assistance is needed. This is especially true for students who are tackling interdisciplinary projects for their thesis project and/or for students who have an outside member serve on their committee. A “third reader” might come from other universities or the broader community, including government personnel and organizational representatives.

Ultimately, the Honors thesis committee is agreed upon by you and your director, and any readers from outside the ASU faculty must be approved by your thesis director.

Register for Honors Thesis Course

Students from any major may register for SOS 492 and SOS 493 if their director is a SOS faculty member. SOS students working with a faculty member outside of the School of Sustainability should register under the departmental prefix of their faculty director.

Prior to enrolling in SOS 492 or SOS 493, all students must complete the [Barrett Online Thesis Workshop](#). To request department consent to enroll in SOS 492 or SOS 493, submit the SOS 492,493 Registration Form to cgfadvising@asu.edu. You'll find this form on the CGF undergraduate [advising website](#).

SOS 493 and qualifying HON 493 projects may be used to satisfy the SOS 498 Capstone Workshop requirement. Students using SOS/HON 493 to satisfy the SOS 498 requirement may still take SOS 498 for elective credit. Contact an academic advisor with any questions.

Scheduling a Thesis/Creative Project Defense

The School of Sustainability assists SOS Honors students in room reservations and promotion of their thesis presentation to the ASU community.

Students registered in SOS 493 may reserve a conference room in Wrigley Hall for their thesis presentation.

- The defense day and time must be confirmed with all faculty on the committee and with Barrett, The Honors College prior to reservation.
- Room reservations should be made at least two weeks prior to the defense, preferably earlier. Rooms in Wrigley Hall are not guaranteed to be available on the date/time requested.

To schedule a defense in the School of Sustainability, follow the steps [located here](#).

Additional Opportunities in the School of Sustainability (SOS)

Independent Study and Research Opportunities

School of Sustainability faculty members employ and advise students in conducting academic research on a wide array of topics, from economics and equity in international development to motivations and constraints for water or energy conservation. These positions entail paid jobs and potential Honors thesis projects, as well as broader learning experiences. Course credit for independent research is also possible. Use the [Expert Search](#) to find more information on faculty expertise and interests, and to review a list of potential Honors advisors.

Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)

ASU's [Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience](#) (SURE) program provides students with research opportunities through a tiered approach: Research Apprentice, Research Assistant, Research Fellow. This is an excellent opportunity to become involved in research as early as sophomore year.

Internships & Work Experience

ASU's Sustainability program strongly supports students in their efforts to participate in real-world learning experiences, including volunteerism, internships, and participating in on-campus organizations. Students may work directly with the SOS Internship and Experiential Education Specialist to develop a sustainability internship or find available internships, volunteer opportunities, and research projects on [SustainabilityConnect](#).

Honors Classes & Contracts

SOS offers a range of courses to engage students in learning about sustainability for Honors credit, including an Honors-only section of SOS 111 Sustainable Cities. Students can also request Honors Contracts for any SOS class taught by a faculty member.

Scholarships & Awards

SOS recognizes excellence in learning through a variety of [financial and other awards](#), from grants and loans to scholarships and fellowships.

Sustainability Academy

The [School of Sustainability Undergraduate Academy](#) is a community of high-achieving, socially embedded sustainability students. The academy fosters academic success, leadership skills, community engagement, and persistence to graduation and reaching goals beyond graduation.

Honor Society for Sustainability

The [Honor Society for Sustainability](#) is a network of sustainability scholars that have demonstrated academic excellence and are committed to solving global sustainability challenges. HSS has two primary goals for its members: to give back to the community through service and to provide pre-professional development opportunities through guest speakers, networking mixers with alumni and business representatives and faculty engagement. Two scholarships are available each year to HSS members.

Sustainability Digest

The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation distributes a weekly *Sustainability Digest* that summarizes upcoming lectures, community activities, work opportunities, and much more. [Subscribe today](#) to receive this digest in your inbox.