

## BSc /BA Honours Thesis

Undergraduate students are to present Honours Thesis that compose of simple narration of facts or fundamentally the ideas of other people, but must show some amount of originality. Their arguments must be clearly framed and supported by substantial and authentic evidence. Their presentation must be sufficiently persuasive and well structured. Writing of the thesis requires exhaustive reading, concentration considerable independent thinking and creativity, self-discipline, and effective time management.

The student is responsible, with the advice of his/her supervisor, for the investigation of sources, the accumulation of data, the selection of pertinent material, and the preparation of the thesis in acceptable form. Besides the availability of a wide range in choice of topics and in variety of treatment (e.g., historical, statistical, philosophical, literary, scientific), which is coupled with rigorous standards of research, argument, and presentation of data.

### Rationale

A thesis involves an in depth exploration of a topic of your own choice. Such an effort requires that the student possess an excellent understanding of the subject area, its theoretical assumptions, and its research methodology. It is a substantive work that you will create over an extended period of time. A BA/BSc Honours thesis is excellent preparation for graduate studies.

### Guidelines for BSc/BA Honours Thesis

1. Basically, a thesis or a research paper requires the formulation of an argument or problem that must be thoroughly investigated and then answered.
2. The paper should be an ambitious, in-depth study that is at least 40 typed pages in length (approximately 250 words/page). This page length does *not* include the title page, table of contents, thesis statement, graphs, illustrations, appendices, citations, or bibliography.
3. The thesis should be carefully defended with a substantial amount of pertinent evidence from primary and secondary sources that is smoothly worked into the paper.

4. The paper should be clearly and fluently written, free from stylistic, typographical, and mechanical errors.

5. Documentation (statistical tables, citations, bibliography, etc.) should follow a correct form as defined by any standard sheet. Whichever stylistic form is chosen, whether

a) MLA

b) *Chicago Manual of Style*

should be used consistently throughout the paper.

6. The honours thesis should be worked on diligently throughout the final semester. *To make sure that steady progress is made toward completing the thesis, students should meet frequently and regularly with their supervisors.* Work out a schedule of face-to-face meetings with your supervisor early in the semester and stick to this schedule. Your supervisor will work this out.

### Thesis Committee

A thesis committee is a committee that evaluates a student's thesis. The members, which usually vary in number from two to four, are scholars in their field (whether a Ph.D. or other designation) and have the task of reading the dissertation, making suggestions for changes and improvements, and sitting in on the defense.

The defense is the last hurdle in the attainment of a degree in Regent University College of Science and Technology. At this final meeting, the degree candidate typically speaks for some amount of time on the dissertation, and then answers the questions of the members of the committee. (In Regent University College of Science and Technology, the defense is known as a **viva**, short for **viva voce**, Latin for "live voice"). If the defense is successful, the Chair of the Thesis Committee and supervisor sign the dissertation. The thesis committee can also require that final changes be made before the dissertation may be submitted to the school of the student. The thesis defense is similar to a seminar presentation; the student summarizes and explains the thesis to an audience that comprises the thesis committee members and guests. Following the presentation, the committee and audience members ask questions and engage in dialogue with the student.



## **Meetings & Deadline for BSc/BA Honours Thesis 2006**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

May 10, 2006

**APPLICATION FORM due**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

May 19, 2006

**PROPOSAL, including bibliography (unannotated)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

August 29, 2006

**HALF of the 1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT to your supervisor**

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

September 22, 2006

**ENTIRE 1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT to your supervisor & UTC**

**Submission**

October 9, 2006

**FINAL DRAFT to the Internal Examiner, External Examiner**

**University Theses Coordinator (UTC)**

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