

First-Ever Honors Program Thesis Formatting Workshop

March 15, 2022

Reminder: The formatted, full draft of your thesis is due to
thesis@baylor.edu for our formatting review by

Friday, April 22nd.

HP Thesis Formatting Guidelines:

- Honors Program Website, under Current Students: Thesis

<https://www.baylor.edu/honorsprogram/index.php?id=960536>

- Note: some elements have changed in the past few years (thanks, COVID). Where the HON 4V87 syllabus and current communications from the Honors Program differ, they supersede this guide.
 - Fortunately, this does not have to do with the instructions on formatting in this document (Parts Two and Three) but rather with some notes about the submission process, etc. in Parts One and Four.

Why does formatting matter?

- From p. 12:

“The Honors Program requires each of its students to conduct, under the supervision of a Baylor faculty member, a project that represents independent research or some other form of advanced scholarship. The product of such scholarship is an Honors thesis. Copies of each such thesis are bound and archived in the office of the Honors Program. The quality of these works reflects the standards of Baylor University, the Honors College, the Honors Program, your department or institute, and the professors who work with you on this project. **Most importantly, the quality of your Honors thesis reflects upon your professionalism.**”

What style guidelines do I follow for my thesis?

- See pages 12-13 of the *Guide*
- Part A: content, writing style, and format (incl. citations): you + mentor
 - Often, the standard style guide followed for a graduate-level dissertation or thesis in the given discipline; however, the final decision on style manual should be made by your thesis mentor.
- Part B: uniform elements across all theses
 - “The Honors Program defines in this document the standard style and format that should apply to all theses completed as part of the program’s curriculum. The purpose of this set of guidelines is to assist you in doing the job effectively and efficiently, and to ensure a reasonable degree of uniformity among all the theses written under the auspices of the Honors Program—while still accommodating, of course, the discipline-specific needs of thesis writers in each academic field.”

Whatever the style guide you adopt for your project, you should follow this general rule:

“If a conflict occurs between these Honors Program guidelines and the discipline-specific style guide, then the Honors Program guidelines should take precedence. Where neither departmental nor Honors Program specifications resolve a question, you should refer to Turabian’s *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. In the end, you must be **consistent** in using the adopted style throughout the document” (13).

Formatting Basics (p. 14-31 of the *Guide*)

- Typeface and size (14)
- Margins (15)
- Spacing (15)
- Page Numbers (15; some links to guides, 23)
- Justification and hyphenation (16)
- Footnotes or endnotes (16-17)
- Headings (17-19)
- Order of thesis components (20)
- Your new best friend: THE APPENDIX (35-42)

Exercises: Set Up of Preliminary Pages

- Dr. Beck: sections and page numbers
- Mrs. Moore: margins, spacing, and headings

Page Numbers

(see p. 20, 23, and the Appendix of the *Guide*)

- There are three types of page numbers in your thesis
 - Section 1: unpaginated = abstract, signature page, title page
 - Section 2: Roman numerals = Table of Contents and any other optional ‘front matter’ (List of Figures, Acknowledgments, Epigraph, etc.)
 - Note: the first paginated page will actually be page “ii,” not page “i.”
 - Section 3: Arabic numerals = first page of the first chapter through the end of the thesis.
 - Here, start with “1” and number continuously from there.
- All page numbers should be centered at the bottom of the page. Make sure that the font and size of the page numbers match that of the body text.

Formatting Page Numbers Using Section Divisions in Word

To format your page numbers in Word, use section breaks between the three types of page numbers, and be sure to “unlink to previous” for each section break.

1. On the last page of a section, click on “Layout,” then “Breaks.” Under “Section Breaks,” click on “Next Page.”
2. On the first page of the *next* section, double click at the bottom of the page to open the footer for that page. Then, under “Header and Footer” at the top of the screen, make sure to **deselect** the “Link to Previous” button. (Word defaults to linking the headers and footers of sections together, and that is NOT what we want here.)
3. While you’re still in the Headers/Footers page, format the page numbers for the new section.
 - Click on “Page Number,” “Bottom of Page,” and select “Plain Number 2” (with the number centered at the bottom of the page).
 - Then, click on “Page Number,” “Page Number Format,” and select the number format for that section (lowercase Roman numerals or Arabic numerals, dep. on the section).
 - In that same box, under “Page numbering,” select “Start at:” and choose the appropriate number. Reminder: for the Roman numerals, you will start at “ii,” and for the Arabic, “1.”

Headings (for sections, subsections, etc.)

(see p. 17-19 and 40 of the *Guide*)

- Spacing: you will use single-, double-, and triple-spaced text in your thesis.

- Single = no blank space between lines.



- Double = one full blank line between lines of text.



- Triple = two (and only two) blank lines between lines of text.



Formatting Headings in Word, Part One:

- Word almost always defaults to including some extra space (usually $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of a line's worth) before and/or after paragraphs. That is, when you hit the "return" key, you end up with more than just a single- or double-spaced line. WE WANT TO GET RID OF THIS.
 - One option: on the "Home" screen, go to "Paragraph," then "Line and Paragraph Spacing." Click on "Line Spacing Options." Make sure under "Spacing," BOTH "Before" and "After" are set to **0 pts.**
 - Option two: also in "Line Spacing Options," see whether the text at the bottom of the box says "**Remove** Space Before/After Paragraph" or "**Add** Space Before/After Paragraph." If it says "**remove**" for either, click on that text. You want both of those lines to say "add." (Basically, you are unselecting the extra space.)

Formatting Headings in Word, Part Two:

- To leave a triple space:
 - Finish the line above the heading, and hit “enter” (return key). Type in your heading.
 - If your text is set to be double spaced throughout and you’ve taken care of the extra space between paragraphs as discussed on the previous page, this should leave you with a double space above the heading. You want a triple space above the heading, so next....
 - Right-click on the heading and choose “Paragraph.”
 - Under “Spacing,” change the “Before” spacing from “0 pt.” to “**12 pt.**” Since your text should be in 12 pt. font, this will leave one additional blank line above that paragraph. Tada! You’ve created a triple space.
 - Repeat **each** time you need a triple space in your text.

Questions?

- Work on individual formatting issues with Dr. Beck, Mrs. Moore, and your peers.