

Options for Honors Research Credit

Can I get Honors credit for thesis research?

Honors students can earn up to 3 Honors credits for research that serves as preparation for or part of their Honors thesis project. This research can be in the form of an Independent Study (499) with their thesis advisor, a research course (496) with a faculty member in their department, or, in some instances, a Capstone course in their major (check with Department Chair first). Up to (but no more than) 3 units may be taken, whether all in the same semester (e.g., 3 units of PSYC 499 in Fall 2021) or over the course of multiple semesters (e.g., 1 unit of EOSC 496 in Spring 2025, 2 units of EOSC 496 in Fall 2025).

How to earn Honors credit for the research:

Independent Study: Enroll in the Independent Study (499) in your discipline with your thesis advisor before the add/drop period ends. Be sure to check “Yes” at the top of the [form](#), where it asks if you are a member of the Honors Program, and if you’d like to receive honors credit for the 499.

If the 499 is with a faculty advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences, contact the Executive Assistant of their department to initiate the approval process via Docusign.

If the 499 is in ENGR or BUSN, electronically fill out the form and collect signatures from the advisor and department chair before sending it to Honors for our signature. Be sure to copy everyone who signs the form when you email the final document to the Dean (listed below).

- Engineering: Dr. Rick Olson, SMSEadvising@sandiego.edu
- Business: Dr. Kacy Hayes, sb.studentsuccess@sandiego.edu

Research Course (e.g., 496 or Capstone in your major): If you are taking a 496 or a class in which you are conducting research for your Honors thesis (e.g., a capstone class), you may be eligible for Honors research units. You should contact your Department Chair, faculty advisor, and the Honors Program to find out if this is possible, since not all classes are eligible. If it is possible to receive credit, the Honors Program will contact the registrar to make changes to your DegreeWorks audit. The earned research units will show after the semester has been completed and a grade is posted.

Note: *The Honors Office compiles a list of all the students taking 496 or Capstone courses for Honors credit that semester and sends that information to the Registrar. The Registrar adds the “H” attribute for those individual students after the final grades are posted.*

What if I forgot to request to have the “H” added to a research course that contributed to my Honors thesis? (e.g., forgot to ask for the “H” for a 496 in my 2nd year)

Email honors@sandiego.edu with the following information: your name, ID number, course title (e.g., BIOL 496), semester taken, and advisor’s name. Please also explain in 1-2 sentences what the class is and how it relates to your Honors thesis/research.