UTSA CREATING BOLD FUTURES

COS Undergraduate Thesis

Information Session

COS Undergraduate Thesis

- The COS Undergraduate Thesis is a **two-semester program** that allows for advanced students to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member and to complete a thesis.
- Students who enjoy research, plan to pursue a research-intensive career, or want to attend a STEM graduate program are encouraged to pursue the Undergraduate Thesis option.

COS Undergraduate Thesis

Website and Policies

- For more information about the COS Undergraduate Thesis program, visit https://sciences.utsa.edu/student/ug-thesis.html
  - You can find the description, policies, and forms for the program

COS Undergraduate Thesis

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a College of Sciences major
- Be in good academic standing
- Have completed at least 60 semester credit hours to be in upper-division standing
- Be sponsored by a COS faculty member (Faculty Supervisor)
- Have approval of the Faculty Supervisor, Department Chair, and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Course Options

→ The COS Undergraduate Thesis is a two-semester program taken in the final semesters, in which you must take credit-bearing and/or zero-hour courses in each semester.

- Each major has a 4993 Directed Research class (e.g., BIO 4993) that should be taken in each semester. If other courses (e.g., Independent Study) are used, there needs to be a justification.

- Students can take a zero-hour course SCI 4400 – COS Signature Experience – Research if they are unable to take a credit-bearing course.

- Final thesis semester must include SCI 4600 – Undergraduate Thesis. Receiving a CR for this course marks the official completion of the COS Undergraduate Thesis.

Zero-Hour Courses

- Zero-hour research (i.e., SCI 4400) courses can be taken if students are unable to take credit-bearing courses.
  - Students do not need to pay tuition and fees on a zero-hour course unlike the credit-bearing courses.
  - Students could take zero-hour courses if they have maxed out their individual learning courses (i.e., 6 hours of independent study maximum)

- Students will receive a CR for the zero-hour courses to mark completion.
  - In the event a student does not meet expectations for their zero-hour courses, they will be dropped from the course.

Timeline

Before Final Two Semesters

- Find a faculty supervisor who can supervise an undergraduate thesis project.
- Complete COS Undergraduate Thesis Registration Form and register for appropriate courses for the next semester.

Penultimate Semester

- Enroll in 4993 course or SCI 4400
- Start on thesis project
- Complete COS Undergraduate Thesis Registration Form and register for appropriate courses for the next semester.

Final Semester (Graduation Semester)

- Enroll in 4993 course or SCI 4400
- Enroll in SCI 4600
- Complete COS Undergraduate Thesis Completion Form

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Thesis Committee

- Faculty supervisor and two Readers serve as the Thesis Committee.
- All committee members should be research-active faculty members.
- Thesis committee will evaluate the final written thesis, provide feedback, and review for approval.

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Deliverables

- Written thesis based on research activities completed in the past semester approved by the Thesis Advisor and Readers
- Public dissemination based on the completed thesis project
- Submission of written thesis to Runner Research Press
- Submission of Completion of COS Undergraduate Thesis form to the student's major department
- **Deliverables due by last day of finals in graduating semester**

Honors College Students

UTSA Honors College

→ Check with Honors College to see if it will accept the COS Undergraduate Thesis towards their Honors Distinction.

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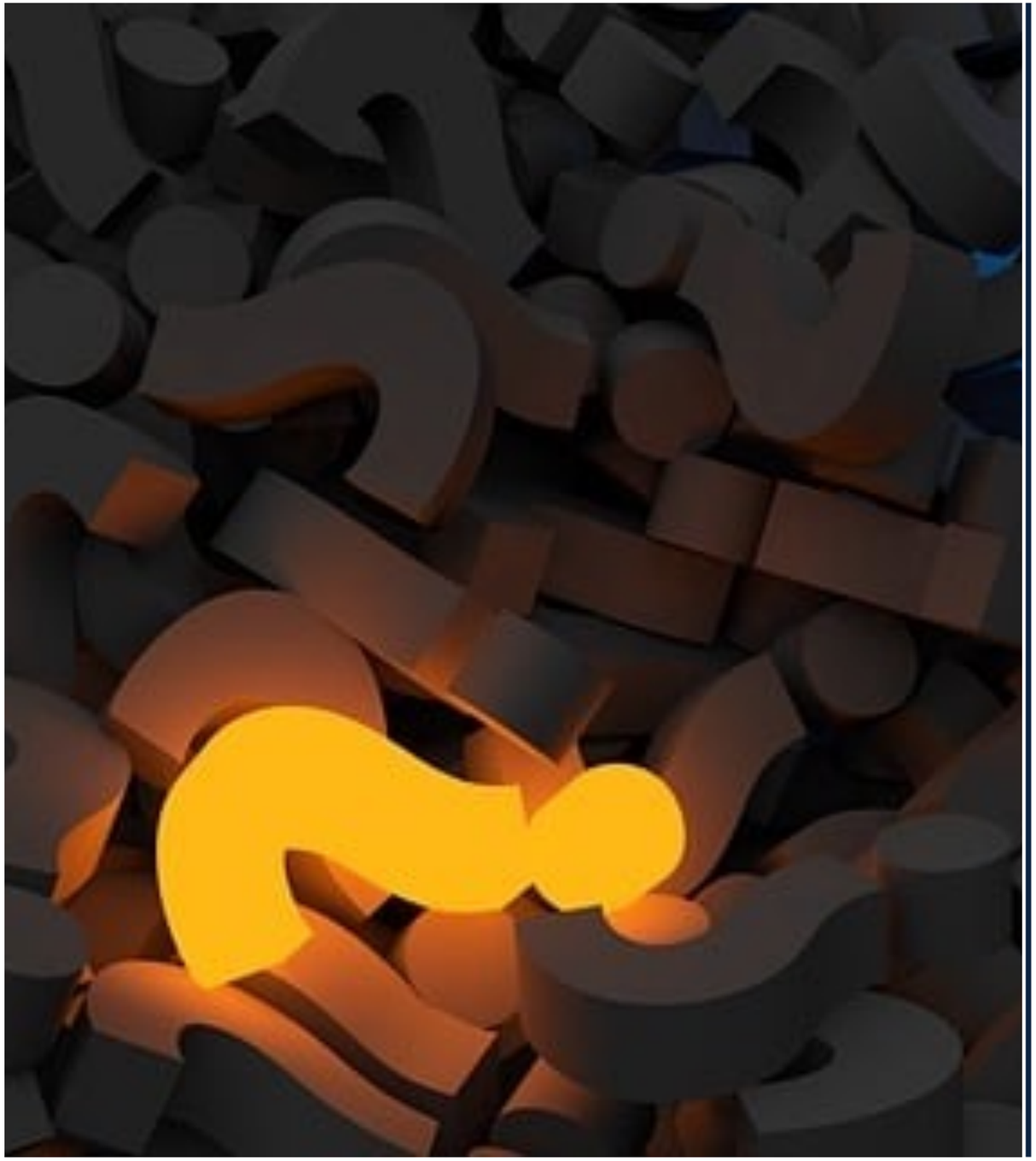
Advice to Getting Started

- Build a good rapport with research active faculty members (e.g., visit them during office hours).
- Gain research experiences early through CUREs, independent studies, undergraduate research opportunities, etc.
- Develop your research skills through coursework and other trainings.
- Apply and join research training programs (e.g., RISE).



COS Undergraduate Thesis

Questions?

- Paperwork should be completed with your Faculty Advisor and submitted to your department's Undergraduate Program Manager.

- Email cos.success@utsa.edu if you have any questions about the COS Undergraduate Thesis.