

**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.





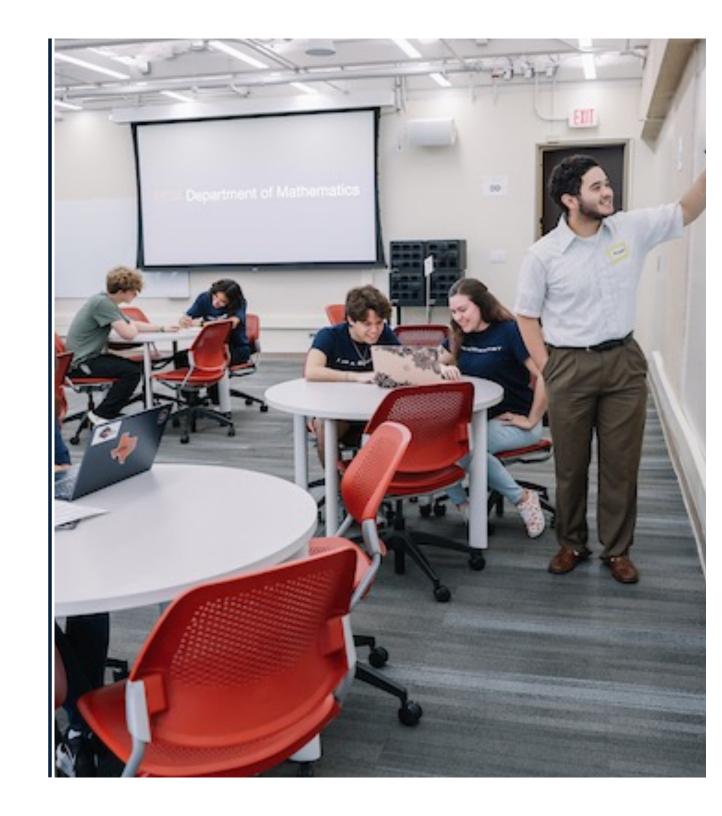
## **Website and Policies**

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



## **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.

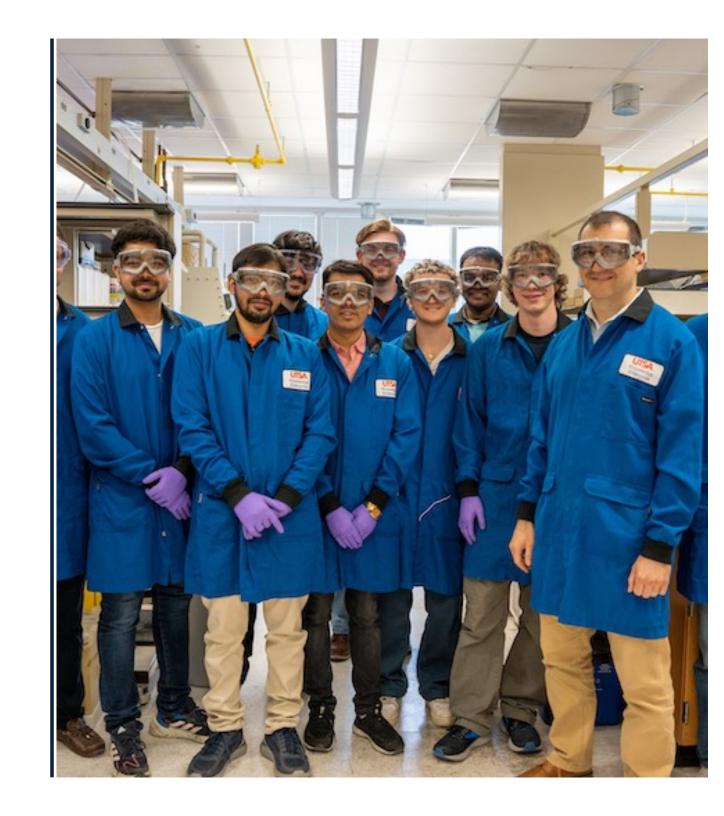
## Final Semester (Graduation Semester)

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

   Completion Form

## **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.





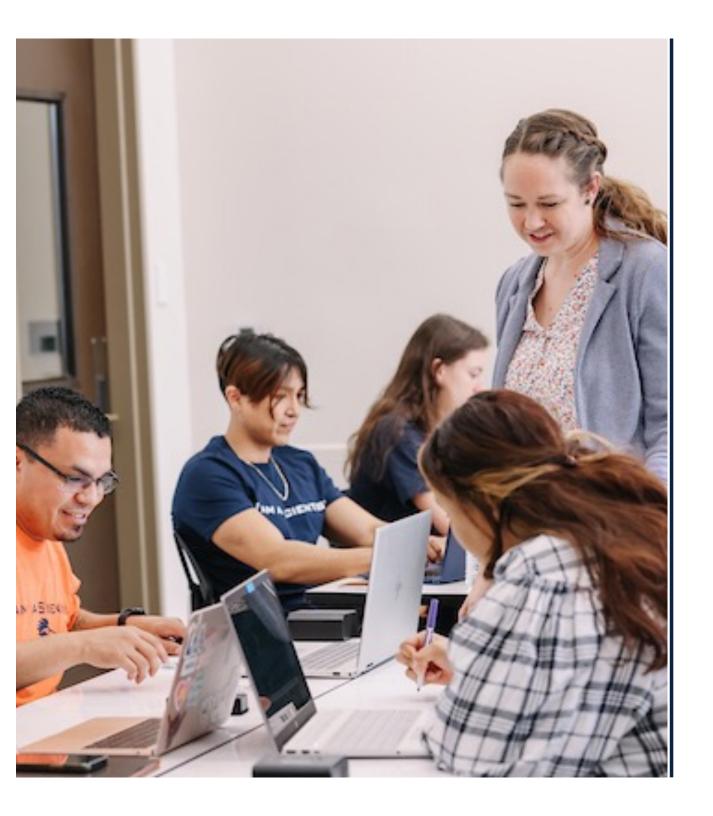
## **Deliverables**

- 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**

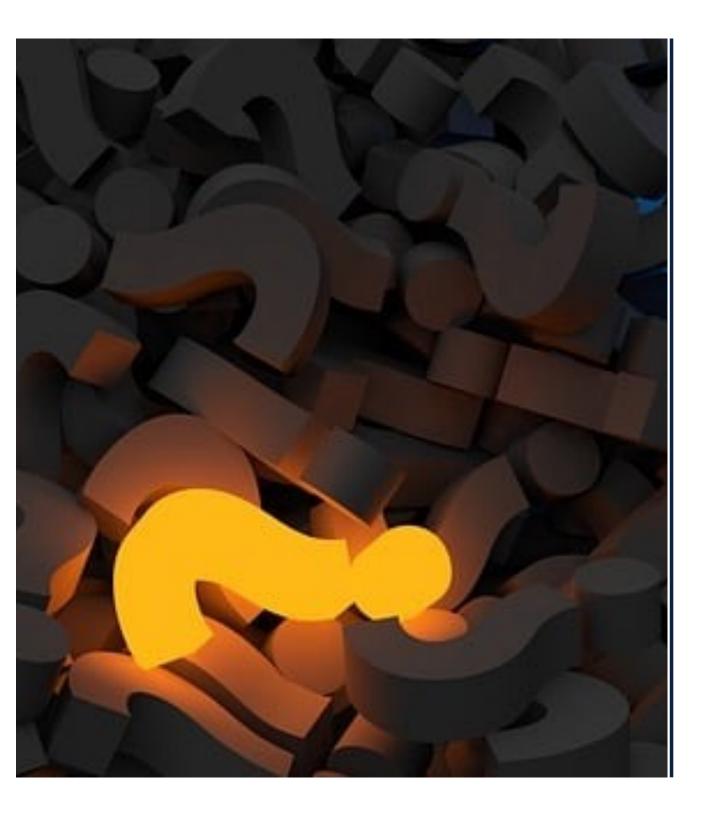


→ Check with Honors College to see if it will accept the COS Undergraduate Thesis towards their Honors Distinction.



## **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).



## **Questions?**

- Paperwork should be completed with your Faculty Advisor and submitted to your department's Undergraduate Program Manager.
- Email <u>cos.success@utsa.edu</u> if you have any questions about the COS Undergraduate Thesis.