

Senior Thesis Requirements

School name	Senior thesis	Summary Any Senior Project	Summary Senior Thesis
Agnes Scott	Students must apply in order to be permitted to write senior thesis. Applicants must have a gpa of at least 3.00 to be considered. It is two semesters long worth 8 credits (4 credits per semester).	Some	Some
Bard	Student must complete an acceptable senior project.	All	None
Bates	Thesis is required for most majors.	Some	Some
Beloit	Students are required to satisfy a capstone experience typically in their final year.	All	None
Bryn Mawr	Senior thesis requirements is department based. For departments that require or give students the chance to enroll in senior thesis, students are required to submit a one page description of their thesis by November 15 of their senior fall semester and enroll in the thesis classes in the spring.	Some	Some
Carleton	Each Carleton senior completes a capstone project in their major. Some students conduct sophisticated research projects and write a corresponding paper. Others deliver lectures or present posters. And still others create something entirely new — like a painting, musical composition, or computer program.	All	Some
Claremont McKenna	Students are required to complete a senior thesis. Departments may allow a 1 semester thesis or two. Students can be granted a chance to write thesis in different departments from their primary one.	All	All
Colorado	A thesis topic to be chosen by student with advice from a member (or members) of the department. Upon presentation of thesis proposal by the student, department faculty will authorize or deny registration in senior thesis.	Some	Some
Davidson	Senior thesis is optional in most departments	Some	Some
Denison Univ.	Senior thesis is department based and it is optional in most of them	Some	Some
Earlham	Senior thesis is department based and mostly completed by invited students	Some	Some

School name	Senior thesis	Summary Any Senior Project	Summary Senior Thesis
Grinnell	All students pursuing independent majors must complete a senior thesis. Some majors have a thesis requirement, some encourage a senior thesis or senior research project.	Some	Some
Hamilton	All students are required to complete a Senior Project in their concentrations. Seniors are required to produce a significant synthesis of knowledge by means of one of the following: a research project leading to a written, oral or visual creation; a seminar for concentrators, including a major presentation and research paper by each student; or comprehensive examinations ideally involving both written and oral components.	All	None
Haverford	Seniors are required to complete senior thesis	All	All
Kenyon	Senior capstone is required for every student	All	None
Lawrence Univ.	Senior thesis or capstone is required for all students	All	Some
Lewis & Clark	Senior thesis or capstone is optional and offered as merit to qualifying students	Some	Some
Macalester	Senior thesis or capstone is required for all students	All	Some
Oberlin	Senior thesis is offered on merit to qualifying students in most departments	Some	Some
Occidental	Senior thesis or capstone is required for all students	Some	Some
Pitzer	Optional to students	Some	Some
Pomona	Seniors are required to complete a senior exercise	All	None
Sarah Lawrence	Optional to students	Some	Some
Swarthmore	Senior thesis is required for all honor majors and capstone project is required by every major	All	Some
Trinity Univ. (TX)	Only departmental honor students are required to complete thesis	Some	Some
Univ. of Puget Sound	Students are required to enroll in a capstone PG 400. But if students wish to complete thesis, they must consult the requirements for that class, PG 490.	All	Some
Vassar	Thesis is optional to students	Some	Some
Wesleyan Univ.	Some departments offer capstone and or thesis based on honors while others don't	Some	Some

School name	Senior thesis	Summary Any Senior Project	Summary Senior Thesis
Whitman	Departments generally determine their unique evaluation of seniors before awarding them the degree. Most of the departments uses thesis while others uses senior seminar or some written exams	Some	Some
Willamette Univ.	Thesis are offered on a departmental basis	Some	Some
Reed	Every senior is required to complete a thesis	All	All

The accreditation indicators for Reed's fall 2025 Year Seven Report included evidence of a rigorous, challenging curriculum, including that students study deeply in a field and aquire a strong foundation in the liberal arts.

The websites of our comparator schools were manually searched for evidence of a senior thesis or senior project requirement or option as part of their graduation requirements.

This data was collected in December 2024 and January 2025.