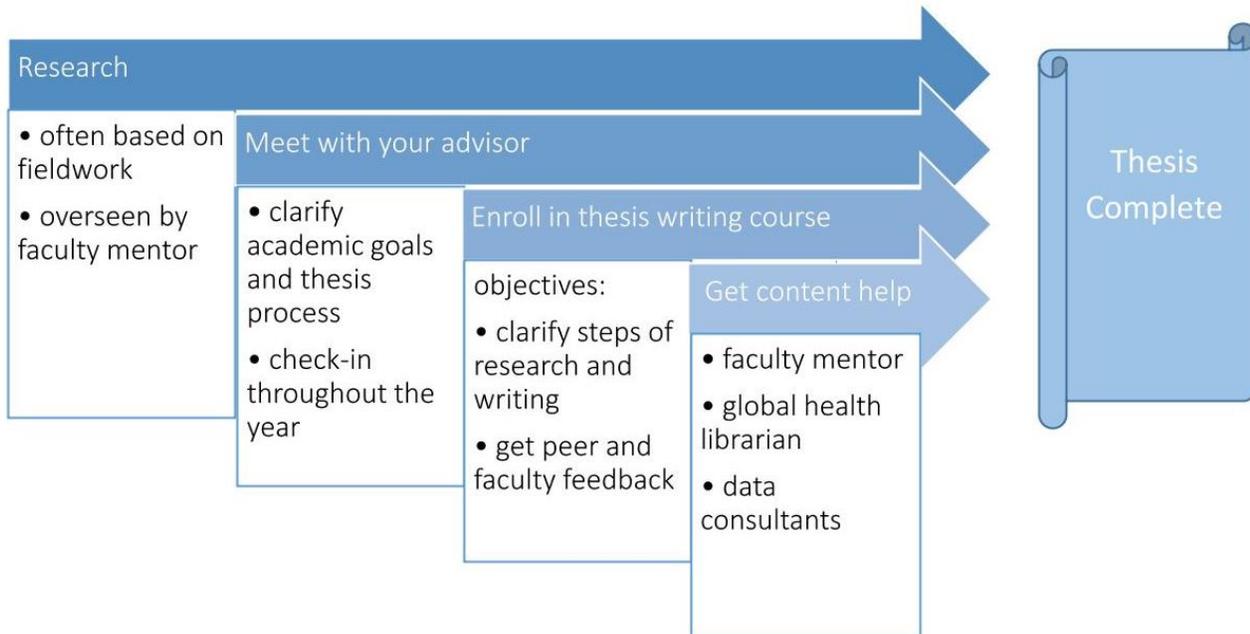


## Graduation with Distinction & Thesis Process

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Overview of Thesis Process



### Requirements

Students who would like to write a senior thesis and be eligible to graduate with distinction must go through an application process and be approved to write a thesis. If approved, students must:

- Have an overall GPA of 3.3 and a 3.5 GPA in core and foundations global health classes
- Complete one independent study in global health (GLHTLH 393)
- Complete two half-credit thesis courses (GLHLTH 495s fall, GLHTLH 496s spring)
- Write an original thesis of approximately 40 pages in length

Students can use GLHLTH 393 as an elective credit for the major. Global health majors are **not** relieved of their requirement to take GLHTLH 499 (Global Health Capstone) by completing a global health thesis.

If students choose a topic which spans both of their majors, they are encouraged to write a double thesis in order to integrate both subject areas. The requirements of the co-major regarding Graduation with Distinction must also be followed, and students must decide to do a double thesis at the beginning of their project.

**Students should first identify a faculty member willing to mentor them for a senior thesis in the spring of their junior year.** The student and faculty member will agree upon the project structure and fill [out an application](#) for graduation with distinction. If approved, the student will be granted a permission number for GLHTLH 495s. They must separately submit an [independent study request](#) for GLHTLH 393 for Fall 2019. Questions about graduation with distinction in global health should be directed to [Erin Degerman](#).

## Timeline

What	When
Explore research opportunities	Freshmen to junior years
Identify a research question	Junior year spring/summer
Find a faculty mentor	Junior year spring/summer
Complete <i>Graduation With Distinction</i> application form for global health	Junior year spring/summer. Submit the form before the start of the term fall of your senior year or by the end of drop/add at the latest.
Complete <i>Independent Study</i> application	By the end of the drop/add deadline for the term. Ideally, this would be submitted prior to the start of the term. Students are encouraged to take their independent study course in fall of their senior year.
Given permission to enroll in <b>495S</b> (fall)	Upon approval of honors thesis application in global health
Given permission to enroll in <b>496S</b> (spring)	Upon successful completion of 495S
Identify thesis committee	Early January senior year*
Defend thesis	Early April senior year*

\*For a double thesis, these deadlines may be earlier, depending on the timeline from the other department

## Things to Consider

- **Why** do you want to pursue a thesis?
- How does this fit in with your **academic and/or career goals**?
- Do you have a clear idea of the **research question(s)** you would like to answer with your thesis?
- Do you have **access to data** that will allow you to answer the research question you have identified?
- If you have already worked on a research team that is studying your topic of interest, what new aspect will you bring the research? Do you have a new approach or unexplored data that you will use for your thesis?
- Have you **identified a global health core or affiliate (not adjunct) faculty member** who may agree to mentor you during the entire year it will take to write your thesis?
- Are you **enthusiastic** about your thesis topic and mentor?
- **What do you need to give up** to have the time to pursue this thesis?

## FAQ

### Do I need to undertake a double-honors thesis?

If your research lends itself to both of your majors, you are welcome to explore that possibility. If not, you are encouraged to choose one field in which to anchor your thesis.

### What type of time commitment is this?

Aside from the two credits (1 Independent study in global health, and two .5 credit global health thesis courses), the time it will take you to manage your thesis project (research, data analysis, writing), adds up to be as much as an additional class.