

Math 197 Guidelines and Expectations

- Honors students must complete 6 units of Math 197 and submit an honors thesis as part of the honors major requirements.
- Students enroll under the honors thesis advisor's section.
- Units are variable, but the department recommends two units per quarter over three consecutive quarters.
- If you want to arrange the units differently, you must discuss your plan with your thesis advisor beforehand.

The student is expected to keep their thesis advisor updated regularly about progress on the thesis. We strongly recommend meeting with the advisor every week, or at least once every two weeks, during every quarter of enrollment in Math 197. Although the units in each term are variable (6 units are required overall and up to a total of 9 are allowed), the choice of units should reflect the amount of work to be completed during each term and be decided by consultation with the thesis advisor. The department recommends the following milestones to complete each quarter:

Fall Quarter--At the end of fall quarter, the student should provide the advisor with a written 1-page summary that describes what the student has learned or discovered and progress made toward the intended goals for the term. This write-up is due no later the last day of classes.

Winter Quarter--At the end of winter quarter, the student should have finished the bulk of the thesis work (e.g., learning most of the relevant mathematics if the thesis will be expository, or making substantial progress towards research goals if the thesis aims to prove new results). Once again, a 1-page summary of what has been accomplished is due to be given to the advisor no later than the last day of classes.

Spring Quarter—Most of the spring thesis work should be focused on writing the thesis and going through revisions and corrections under the guidance of the advisor. The final draft is due on Monday of week 8 of the term. This final draft should not be the first draft the advisor sees! At least one draft should be submitted to the advisor beforehand, giving the advisor enough time to read it and provide feedback for revision.

It is expected that when enrolled in Math 197, students and their honors thesis advisor will have regular meetings—at least once every two weeks--discussing the thesis and the student's progress.