



Center for Interdisciplinary Studies

5 The Green • Eaton Hall, Room 111 • Medford, MA 02155
Phone: 617-627-2955 • Fax: 617-627-3032

CIS Senior Thesis Candidate Form

(NOT for IS Majors)

Student Information

Please Print

Student Last Name	First Name, MI	Student I.D. Number	
Local Street Address	Apartment #	College	Class
City, State	Zip	Home Phone	Email Address

Student's Major:

Must be previously declared

Title of Thesis:

May be Tentative

Faculty Advisors for Thesis

Name	Department	Signature
Primary Advisor:		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Students are required to complete and return this form to the Tufts Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Eaton Hall, Room 111, Medford Campus, in a timely manner, as addressed in the CIS Senior Thesis guidelines. **This form must accompany** the required one-page thesis prospectus as well as a letter from the primary faculty member as stated in the CIS Thesis Guidelines. **Upon approval of the CIS Board** the student will enroll in CIS 94 or CIS194 Honors course.

Student's Signature	Date
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CIS Chair Signature	Date
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Original - CIS

Copy – Project Director

Copy - Student

CIS Senior Thesis Guidelines

Procedures governing approval of the CIS Senior Thesis projects are described in the [Tufts University Bulletin](#). Arts, Science, and Engineering students who wish to write a senior thesis outside their major area of concentration may be eligible to write a CIS senior thesis. The student must satisfy the CIS Board that the topic falls outside the purview of any department or interdisciplinary program and that significant coursework and/or faculty-directed research relevant to the thesis topic has been accomplished. The student must assemble a committee of three faculty readers with expertise in the disciplines involved, one of whom is designated as the chair of the committee and who is responsible for submitting a grade and designating the amount of credit for the thesis coursework. One member of the committee must be from a department or program in which the student is majoring. The topic must be approved by the CIS Board no later than the end of the first week of classes in the first semester of the student's senior year. Students who would like to be recommended for degrees with honors by departments that require a thesis should be aware that these departments require a thesis within their own department and a CIS thesis will not usually count as a substitute. However, students may apply for a CIS thesis to count as an honors thesis in the Thesis Honors Program like a thesis in any other discipline by assembling a thesis committee and filing the appropriate paperwork. If the CIS thesis is to qualify as an honors thesis, the chair of the thesis committee must be from a department or program in which the student is majoring.

Registration Procedures for a CIS Senior Thesis

Student interested in pursuing the CIS Senior Thesis can enroll for the must submit the following information to the CIS program director for consideration:

1. **A one-page thesis prospectus**, which briefly summarizes the thesis project design, including: the major research question or questions to be pursued in the thesis, including (if known) a brief summary of existing research; and an indication of the potential resources (library, bibliographic, data collection) that will be consulted for research;
2. **A letter from the Faculty member** stating an intent to serve as primary advisor for the thesis whom is designated as the chair of the committee;

Deadline for Application

Students spending their junior year abroad, are strongly encouraged to follow university guidelines, enrolling for thesis by the end of their junior year. The last permitted date for enrolling in the CIS Thesis will be the end of the second week of Fall semester of senior year (normally around September 15th. However, students who wait until September to register run the strong risk of not finding faculty members prepared to support their thesis! Thus, students - including those studying abroad - are strongly advised to at least formulate a research question and secure the support of their main thesis advisor in spring of their junior year, if not in person then through e-mail.

For students graduating in February and doing a CIS Thesis on a Spring/Fall schedule, the deadline would be the end of the second week of spring semester (normally around January 30th).

Once the CIS Thesis has been approved by the CIS Board, the student will:

1. Enroll in either the CIS94 OR CIS194 Honors year-long course using the **One-On-One Course Form** with your primary advisor. Students enrolling in CIS 194 must also have their primary advisor complete a Student Services [Senior Honors Thesis Candidate Form](#) and submit it to Student Services. Copies of all forms must be submitted to CIS.
2. Upon completion of the Thesis, the student must complete and return the [CIS Thesis Certification Form](#) along with a copy of the CIS Thesis project. The primary faculty advisor will submit a grade for the thesis. The deadline for grading coincides with grading of other courses as stated in the [Tufts University Bulletin](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The CIS Senior Thesis is different than a major in Interdisciplinary Studies. For students interested in an IS major visit the CIS website.