

Macalester College Geology Department

Honors Thesis Timeline

Discuss with Advisor

Talk with a Macalester Geology faculty member about working on a project related to their research, or with an off-campus advisor about continuing.

Senior
Sept

Committee Discussion

Before finals, have a committee conversation that includes a ~15-minute update by YOU to report progress and lay out completion plans.

Senior
January

Full Thesis to Committee

Before spring break, submit a draft of your talk and your full thesis to your committee. This version is polished, formatted, and ready for final feedback.

Senior
March

Senior
April

Thesis Submission

Submit your revised, committee-approved thesis to the college and get ready to graduate with Honors!

Senior
April

Apply for Honors

Submit a complete Geology Honors application to the department by the date specified (typically one week prior to the college deadline).

Senior
Nov/Dec

Thesis Draft

Before the start of spring semester classes, share a substantial thesis draft with you committee, including figures and formatting.

Senior Night Talk and Thesis Defense

Give a 12-minute talk at the Geology Senior Night, fulfilling the capstone requirement, and complete a separate Honors defense with your committee, including a 15–20 minute talk, questions, and deliberation.

Ongoing... Read papers! Collect and analyze data! Write! Edit! Revise! Revise again! And again!