Students in the Faith & Reason Honors Program at DeSales University are required to write, present, and publish an honors thesis during the Spring semester of their Senior year. The topic of the thesis is chosen by the student, with the approval of the faculty advisor and the director of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture.

Development of the honors thesis (research and writing) will be directed by a senior faculty member at DSU and will count as a three-credit "independent study" course in the Humanities (LS 499) or in the respective department of the faculty member. This course fulfills a "free elective" requirement in the student's General Education Core curriculum.

Spring 2010 Schedule of Events
Monday, January 18

Students submit completed registration forms for an “Independent Study” course, numbered as **LS 499**. (Forms are available from the Academic Affairs Office or as a .pdf file on the University’s web site.)

Students work, throughout the Spring semester, according to the schedule agreed upon with their faculty advisor.

**Monday, April 12 by 5:00pm**

**Students in LS 499 submit their thesis to their faculty advisor AND to the Director of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture (Fr. Thomas Dailey, OSFS).**

For the sake of consistency and eventual publication, please follow these guidelines:

* The length of the thesis should be 30-50 pages, not counting the title, outline, notes, or bibliography pages. Pagination must be included in the text.

* The text should be composed in a 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Lengthy quotations, as well as any notes, are to be single-spaced in a 10-point font.

* The thesis must include endnotes (not footnotes) and a bibliography of works cited. Formatting should be consistent with the academic standards of the discipline in which the thesis is written.

* For the sake of evaluation by the Review Committee, the student’s name may appear only on the title page. No other identifying reference should appear in the text of the thesis.

* Each thesis must be submitted electronically, in MS Word or WordPerfect format. Submissions may be on disc or as an email attachment.

**Wednesday, April 14**

The Director distributes the theses to the Review Committee for their evaluations. The Committee is split into two groups, each of which reads half of the total number of submissions. Based on a common evaluation form, Review Committee members rates each thesis in terms of form and content, according to the following categories:

* explication of the argument
* integration of faith & reason
* clarity & coherence of expression
* incorporation of scholarly research

Students should prepare a 5-minute oral summary of their thesis, which they will present at the annual Honors Colloquium (see below).

**Monday, April 19**

The Review Committee submits its evaluations of each thesis to the Director, who tallies the scores. One semi-finalist thesis is chosen from each review group based on the total ratings.
Tuesday, April 20

The Director distributes the two semi-finalist theses to the entire Review Committee for their final evaluation.

Thursday, April 22

The Review Committee meets (12:30 p.m. in the Salesian Center) to discuss the two semi-finalist papers and select the award-winning Honors Thesis.

Friday, April 23

The Director returns each thesis to the students. Where possible and appropriate, comments from the Review Committee are also sent to the students. Students undertake revisions of the thesis in view of the final submission and eventual publication (see below).

Sunday, April 25

The annual **Honors Colloquium** is held. To this event are invited: the Senior and Junior students in the Honors Program, the faculty who have directed the Honors Seminars, and the members of the Review Committee (all at no charge). The Senior students may also invite family and/or friends to attend the Colloquium, which requires that they purchase tickets for the event (at a minimal cost, to be determined annually). Alumni of the Honors Program are also invited to attend.

This event takes place in the Gerald A. White Pavilion of the DeSales University Center, according to the following timetable:

- 5:30 pm   social gathering
- 5:45 pm   welcome & introductions ... dinner served
- 6:30 pm   coffee & desserts ... oral presentations of theses  
            (5-minute summary by each student)
- 7:30 pm   “best thesis” award presentation ... conclusion

Friday, May 14 (exam week)

Students submit the final versions of the thesis to their faculty advisors and to the Salesian Center (Fr. Dailey). Faculty advisors determine and submit the final grade for LS 499.

Friday, June 11

The Salesian Center for Faith & Culture publishes all revised theses in an electronic journal entitled *On the Wings of Truth*. Students are apprised by email of the publication.