Honors in a Special Field Oral Exam Evaluation

<table>
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<th>Student name:</th>
<th>Research Mentor:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Thesis title:</td>
<td>Date/time:</td>
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<td>Examiners:</td>
<td>Society Representative:</td>
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<td>Honors Cmte Representative:</td>
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- Summary of thesis
- Time spent/effort on thesis research
- Quality, relevance, and timeliness of literature review and background section
- Knowledge of the field and related areas, as evidenced in the oral exam
- Approach of the study in terms of design, method, and execution
- Student’s appreciation of the experimental design’s strengths and limitations, particularly the latter
- Analysis, reporting and interpretation of findings including statistical significance of the data and validity of the conclusions
- Quality of presentation in thesis (text, illustrations) and oral report
- Potential or existing publication(s)
- Student’s understanding of the significance of their findings and contribution to the field

Honors result

| cum laude: _____ | magna cum laude: _____ | summa cum laude: _____ | No honors: _____ |

**cum laude:** The student’s thesis represents a solid contribution to the research field and is likely to be publishable. The student defended the thesis effectively and did a good job answering questions, placing the thesis within the research field, and recognizing the limitations of the thesis.

**magna cum laude:** The student’s thesis represents a major contribution to the research field and is likely publishable in a front-line journal. The student defended the thesis very effectively, and had little or no difficulty answering questions or recognizing the limitations of the thesis, and exhibited a comprehensive understanding of the research field.

**summa cum laude:** The student’s thesis represents an extraordinary discovery: clearly publishable in a front-line journal and likely to make a significant short- and medium-term impact on the research field. The student was able to answer all questions effectively, recognized and addressed the limitations of the thesis, and showed an advanced understanding of both the thesis topic and the research field. HMS has awarded *summa cum laude* Honors only 18 times in the school’s history. Please inform Dr. D’Amore or Dr. Gandhi promptly if the student’s thesis may merit *summa* Honors.

**No honors:** If the thesis does not represent a contribution to the research field, or if the student’s knowledge of the field is so inadequate that a substantive discussion of the thesis topic isn’t possible, the examiners should recommend no honors.