Some facts about the Department of Mathematics and Statistics Undergraduate Honors Thesis.

The UG Honors Committee would like to remind the students that GPA is only a minimum requirement to enter the Honors Program (see http://math.unm.edu/undergraduate/honors-program). The decision of whether the student gets honors will be based on both the content of the thesis AND presentation. Other scientific activities can be taken into account in borderline cases. If students want to get their honors based solely on GPA, they can use the University honors program (they can get honors from both programs). The main advantage of the Department's honors program is that the recommendation letter will be based not only on students' performance in some classes, but will show students' ability to do some research, which can be a crucial point, especially for application to top tier graduate schools and/or employment.

Requirements:

1. The thesis has to be written in good English and be accessible for non-specialists (not all professors at the Department specializes in number theory, for example).

2. The thesis has to be approved by the student's adviser who needs to read and approve it before sending it to the UG Committee. The thesis needs be sent to the UG Committee by the student's adviser who shares responsibility for quality of the text.

3. There will be only one round of corrections from the Committee members. After this round, if the text is still considered substandard, then the student may not earn honors.

Important dates:

All candidates have to provide electronic versions of their theses to the members of the Undergraduate Committee at least 10 days before the defense. The defense date will be scheduled by the Undergraduate Committee. Please check the Department web page https://math.unm.edu/undergraduate/honors-program or contact the Undergraduate Chair for details.

Procedure:

Every student will be given 20 minutes for the presentation of the work plus 5 minutes for questions.

After the defense, the Committee provides remarks and/or a list of required improvements on the thesis. The students will have one week to address the remarks and/or implement required improvements.

Recommendations for thesis preparation.

Formatting:

The students are encouraged to use an official LaTeX style/ MS Word template for theses in UNM which are available here:
http://grad.unm.edu/degree-completion/thesis-dissertations/guidelines.html (click at "Formatting Aid"). MS Word template available there as well. A faculty advisor can help get started with LaTeX, and there are many online resources.

Student has to use guidelines for thesis (what parts it has to include etc.) from the link above.

Acknowledgments section:

It is up to the student whom to thank in the "Acknowledgments" section of the thesis. At the same time it is polite to thank the adviser if he/she helped the student in the work, which is usually the case.

In the academic world, it is polite to thank the source of ANY support for the work on the problem with specific reference to this source. For example, if the student was funded from some grant and includes this information in the CV and in such a case absence of the mentioning of this grant in the thesis and presentation would look particularly strange.

Students can thank other people who contributed to the improvement of the thesis as well (if somebody proofread it, explained something during the work on it, or proposed how to change it to make more accessible to the audience). It is polite and usually doesn't hurt (and there is no strict limitation on the number of pages).

Please, remember, that your thesis will be available on-line through UNM library virtually **forever**, so it is in your best interest to prepare it in such a way, that you will be proud of it, not ashamed.