

# SCHC 499 Senior Thesis

## GUIDED PATHWAY

The Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway provides an opportunity for Honors College students to complete the thesis requirement in a structured, classroom-based environment. Students will complete 4 credits of SCHC 499 across two semesters. In Fall 2025, students will enroll in SCHC 499: Guided Pathway, Part I. The course introduces social science research methods and explores possibilities for applying those methods to a topic connected to the pathway's theme. Students will work in small groups (3 or 4 students) to develop a proposal for a research study or a creative/applied project. In Spring 2026, students will enroll in SCHC 499: Guided Pathway, Part II and work with their teammates to execute the study or project proposed in Part I. Students will also participate in a public showcase of thesis projects at the end of the spring semester.

The pilot is open to students of all majors, with the exception of those pursuing a BARSC degree, who have completed at least four semesters of coursework at USC.



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## GUIDED PATHWAY FAQs

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### **Who should enroll in Guided Pathway?**

This opportunity is designed for students who have not yet committed to a thesis director or a specific project, missed enrollment in or did not successfully complete SCHC 390, are open to completing a thesis grounded in social science research methods, and willing to participate in a team-based thesis project. Students who have already completed SCHC 390 may participate in the pilot but will be required to complete a new proposal as part of SCHC 499 Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway, Part I.

### **When will the program be offered?**

The Guided Pathway pilot will take place during the 2025-2026 academic year. Students who want to participate in the pilot must be enrolled in classes on the USC Columbia campus for both the fall and spring semesters. Students must commit to enrolling in Part I (Fall 2025) and Part II (Spring 2026) in order to be accepted into the Guided Pathway program.

In Fall 2025, the class will meet on MW from 1:10 to 2:00 pm.

### **How do I enroll in Guided Pathway?**

Students who are interested in enrolling in the Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway pilot should complete the interest form by Sunday, March 30th. Preference will be given to students who will be entering their final year of undergraduate study in Fall 2025 with an intended graduation date of May 2026. Students will be notified of their acceptance into the program on Friday, April 4th, and given permission to enroll in SCHC 499 Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway, Part I during priority registration week. Students who are not accepted into the pilot will be placed on a waitlist, with priority determined by anticipated graduation date and application submission date.

### **Where can I find the application?**

The **Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway Interest Form** can be found on the South Carolina Honors College website.

### **Questions?**

Questions about the Senior Thesis: Guided Pathway can be directed to Dr. Tracy Skipper ([tskipper@sc.edu](mailto:tskipper@sc.edu)) or Dr. Andrea Kornegay ([atanner@sc.edu](mailto:atanner@sc.edu)).

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## GUIDED PATHWAY INSTRUCTORS

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### **Dr. Sei-Hill Kim**

Eleanor M. & R. Frank Mundy Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Information and Communications

Dr. Kim's research interests are at the intersection of the media and social issues. He examines how the issues are presented in the media and what the effects are on the audiences. Specific research areas include public health, science, politics, and public relations. Kim has extensive experience directing undergraduate and graduate research and has taught several courses in the South Carolina Honors College.



### **Dr. Andrea Kornegay**

Associate Dean, South Carolina Honors College

Dr. Kornegay is a faculty member and former director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her research expertise is in media communication of health information, specifically focusing on how communication practitioners identify, select, and develop health messages, and how this information contributes to the public's health beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions. She uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods in an effort to evaluate how audiences access and comprehend health content from various communication channels.