

## **DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY SENIOR THESIS REGULATIONS**

All sophomore and junior biology majors will be considered for senior thesis at the first departmental meeting in the spring semester at which time the senior thesis director will provide cumulative averages and other relevant information. The faculty will decide which students are eligible for senior thesis. Generally, this will include students who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Each faculty member who is interested in working with a senior thesis student shall provide up to three project titles and a brief (1-2 paragraphs) written description of each project. Prior to the above-mentioned departmental meeting, these titles and descriptions will be solicited by the senior thesis director.

The senior thesis director will inform all students of their eligibility for senior thesis and schedule a meeting with those interested students at least three weeks before fall pre-registration. At this meeting, students will be given orientation regarding the thesis option and a list of possible thesis projects and advisors. Students will be asked to discuss specific projects with the thesis advisors, and obtain the advisors signature.

After talking to the thesis advisors, students will be asked to select a first, second, and third choice of thesis project, preferably with more than one thesis advisor. The choices and signatures mentioned above must be returned to the senior thesis director two weeks prior to the beginning of fall pre-registration.

The senior thesis director will talk to each faculty member who has been selected as a possible thesis advisor to ensure the faculty member is willing to accept the student(s). Under normal circumstances, no faculty member will be permitted to have more than two senior thesis students.

The senior thesis program director will notify the undergraduate advisor, the students, and the faculty members of which student(s) will be participating in the senior thesis option.

All students registered for thesis will receive the grade of P (Pass) at the end of the first semester. This grade must be changed to a letter grade by the end of the final semester. Final grades must be turned in on time. In general, incomplete grades cannot be used to give a student more time to complete the thesis.

The final copy of the thesis signed by the thesis adviser is due by noon of the first day of the final examination period (in December or May). Two copies of the thesis must be submitted: one to the departmental office and one to the advisor. Thesis students will be reminded by the thesis program director and their advisors of the due date at least five weeks before the deadline. It is expected that the thesis advisor will examine and make comments on one or more preliminary drafts of the thesis before the final copy is submitted.

All students who work on senior thesis will be expected to present their results at the Clarkson Symposium for Undergraduate Research in the spring of their senior year.

## **FORMAT FOR SENIOR THESIS**

A template showing the correct form and organization of the thesis will be provided. The abstract shall be no more than one page in length. The approval of the physical form of the thesis shall be indicated by the signature of the thesis advisor, Department Chairman, or Executive Officer on the title page.

The thesis shall contain the following sections (in the order listed):

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Appendix (if needed)

**CLARKSON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

(TITLE HERE IN CAPITALS)

A Thesis  
by  
(YOUR NAME HERE IN CAPITALS)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
Bachelor of Science in Biology

Date / Month / Year

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_