

# **Guidelines for the Preparation of an Undergraduate Thesis in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**

These guidelines may be used by any undergraduate student (Honors or non-Honors) writing an undergraduate thesis.

## **I. Procedures**

Honors students: please refer to the Honors Office website regarding the procedures you will need to follow: <http://honors.uconn.edu/current-students/thesis-project/>.

Non-Honors students: please discuss the procedures you should follow with your thesis advisor.

## **II. Thesis Specifications**

### **A. Suggested Format:**

Your thesis should include the following pages and sections, presented in the order given below. Copies of the Honors theses of all previous Biology students are filed in the Honors Office. Please go to ROWE/CUE 419 if you would like to see examples of theses prepared by students in past years.

1. Thesis Approval Form. This will be your thesis cover page. Access this form at: <http://honors.uconn.edu/forms/graduation-forms/>. If your thesis advisor is also your Honors advisor, it is recommended that you have a second faculty member read your thesis.
2. Abstract. This should be on a separate page.
3. Acknowledgments. This should be on a separate page.
4. Table of contents. This should be on a separate page.
5. List of Tables\* (if any). This should be on a separate page but is not required if you have no tables.
6. List of Figures\* (if any). This should be on a separate page but is not required if you have no figures.
7. Introduction
8. Materials and Methods
9. Results
10. Discussion
11. Conclusions/Significance of Conclusions
12. Literature Cited. The format of the citations in this section should follow that used in a scientific journal in your field. One of the more common formats for literature citations is shown below:

Thomason, A. J. and T. R. McMurrow. 1996. Tail coloration in brown minnows and its effect on male energy budgets. *Journal of Behavioral Ecology*. 24: 342-344.

\* Note: All tables and figures should be embedded in the body of the thesis and should include captions and/or table legends.

B. Paper Quality:

Use 8.5 X 11 inch white bond paper. Onionskin and correctable paper are not acceptable. Your thesis should have no borders, running headers or punched holes. Use only one side of the paper for typing, figures, etc.

C. Spacing, Margins & Page Numbering:

All aspects of the thesis with text should be double-spaced.

The margins should be 1.5 inches on the left and at least 1 inch on the top, bottom, and right sides of the pages including the figures, tables, charts, etc.

Page numbers should be placed in the upper right corner or the top center of center of each page. Page numbers may extend into the margins. Pages should be numbered consecutively beginning with the approval page.

D. Printing:

Clean, accurate, professional quality type is required. Use a clear font no smaller than 10 point and no larger than 14 point. Use black ink.