

GUIDE TO THE THESIS IN ZOOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Thesis in Zoology comprises a written report and oral presentation documenting original research. The thesis research is conducted by a student under the guidance of a Zoology faculty mentor and a thesis committee. Students who complete a thesis are typically already involved in research with a faculty mentor, and research for a thesis is generally of longer duration and greater depth than that undertaken for Zoology 4800 (Problems in Zoology).

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that the student will meet regularly with his/her faculty mentor and thesis committee while the research is conducted and as the thesis is written. Typically, at least three full semesters are required to conduct the research and write the thesis. Registration for Zoology 4970 (Thesis) will occur in the student's final semester before graduation and the thesis proposal/abstract must be approved by the thesis committee before registration in Zoology 4970.

REPRESENTATIVE THESIS TIMELINES

With the exception of the Final Semester, the activities outlined below are suggestions and not strict deadlines. Students should work closely with their mentor to complete the thesis and research presentation.

OPTION 1 – Students just beginning a research project.

OPTION 2 – Students already engaged in a research project.

OPTION 1

Thesis Semester 1

- Discuss thesis project with research mentor.
- Begin (or continue) thesis research.

Thesis Semester 2 (*student may register for credit for ZOOL 4800*)

- Continue research activities.
- In conjunction with faculty mentor, assemble a thesis committee with a minimum of three individuals, including the mentor.
- Complete Thesis Proposal form, with project description and all signatures, and submit to mentor.

Thesis Semester 3 (*student may register for credit for ZOOL 4800*)

- Continue research activities (if needed).

OPTION 2 (A Thesis Proposal is not necessary)

Thesis Semester 1 (*student may register for credit for ZOOL 4800*)

- In conjunction with faculty mentor, assemble a thesis committee with a minimum of three individuals, including the mentor.
- Submit a 300-word abstract to members of the committee that includes the questions addressed, the methods used, and a summary of the results obtained to date.
- Provide a timeline, including completion semester

Both OPTIONS

Final Thesis Semester (*student must register for credit for ZOOL 4970*)

- Complete thesis draft and submit to committee members at least one month before the thesis seminar.
- Work with mentor on thesis oral presentation.
- In conjunction with thesis committee, schedule thesis presentation and inform department admin assistant at least two weeks in advance.
- Make final edits, complete thesis and turn in to department with all signatures.

ZOOLOGY THESIS PROPOSAL
Cover Sheet

Project Information

Name:

Thesis Title:

Faculty Mentor Name:

Student Signature

Date

Mentor Signature

Date

Committee Member Signature

Date

Committee Member Signature

Date

Zoology Department Chair

Date

Thesis Proposal

DIRECTIONS: The instructions below should be removed and replaced with your proposal text. Do not exceed four double-spaced pages. Upon completion of your project you are required to present your thesis as a departmental seminar.

The following information should be included in the proposal:

- Research question or hypothesis.
- Background information with appropriate references.
- Goals and objectives of thesis research.
- Timeline, including specific semesters.