

CLAS Honors Thesis Proposal Guidelines

An [Undergraduate Honors Thesis](#) is required of all UF Biology majors pursuing honors distinctions at the *magna* or *summa cum laude* levels.

A brief thesis proposal is required by the 6th full week of the semester prior to the student's final semester. For example, the proposal is due the 6th week of Fall semester for students graduating in Spring semester. Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged to allow for proposal feedback & revision as well as planning, execution and writing of the thesis.

The following guidelines describing the format and basic content of a thesis proposal were adapted from the CALS guidelines for the [University Scholars Program](#).

Format: Arrange the text in three parts, using the subheadings listed below. Address the items listed under each section.

Please submit the CLAS Thesis Proposal Form together with your Thesis Proposal. Cite references as appropriate.

You may type your proposal directly into the Thesis Proposal Form. You may also type the thesis proposal in an MS Word Document which includes the three sections below:

I. Literature review and justification (Background & Significance):

- Describe the background and overall context of the research.
- Show that the project includes the original, creative work of the student as informed and directed by the faculty mentor (i.e., the student is not just helping another researcher with his/her research)
- Describe the impact of the research on the scientific discipline

II. Research objective, anticipated results (Hypothesis):

- State the objective(s), research question(s), or hypothesis clearly and concisely.
- Describe anticipated results.

III. Methodology, timeline, analysis plan (Proposed Research & Methods):

- Describe methods for data collection.
- Include a timeline for planning/training, data collection, analysis, writing.
- Describe how the data/results will be analyzed, interpreted and presented.

Submission: Submit your Thesis Proposal Form and Thesis Proposal in PDF format to biology-major@ufl.edu. You will receive a copy signed by the Undergraduate Coordinator or department representative. If your thesis proposal needs revisions, you will be notified and can work with your faculty mentor and the department advisor to revise and resubmit your proposal.