

Natural Resources and Environmental Science Undergraduate Thesis Program

Conducting an undergraduate thesis will provide a formal mechanism to integrate motivated undergraduate students into research within the program. This will increase the levels of rigor and preparedness of highly motivated students focusing on graduate school. Ultimately, this option will increase student preparedness in the critical areas of scientific rigor, communication, and critical thinking. Enrollment in the NRES thesis option is restricted to students with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 who can find an appropriate NRES faculty affiliate who is willing to serve as an advisor for that student's undergraduate thesis.

NRES Program contract for NRES 498 – Undergraduate Thesis Research in NRES (meets Honors College and Deans Scholars Program thesis requirement)

Requirements: This contract is to be used for students registering for the NRES 498 course (undergraduate individual thesis research project) and for students working to complete the thesis requirement for honors programs. Enrollment in NRES 498 course requires prior approval of, and arrangement with, a faculty research advisor. For successful completion of the honors program thesis requirement, the following items are required: a student must have approval of the NRES 498 course advisor and complete:

- 1) a NRES 498 course for a minimum of 3 credits
- 2) a written report of the research in a scientific journal format, and
- 3) a public oral presentation of final results (such as the spring undergraduate poster competition at Purdue).

The NRES 498 course is a contract between an NRES faculty affiliate and a student for an individual research project on a special problem in a selected area of environmental science, culminating in a written report in scientific format. This form must be completed and signed, including approval by the NRES Co-Directors, prior to registration – and no later than the end of the second week of the semester in which the NRES 498 course will be taken.

Note: NRES students wishing to pursue an interdisciplinary thesis or scholarly project through the Honors College, rather than a project within NRES, should refer to the Honors College guidelines to determine how to proceed.

NRES 498 HONORS THESIS CONTRACT

Name: _____ Student I.D. No. _____

Faculty Affiliate: _____ Academic Advisor: _____

Statement of Problem(s) To Be Studied:

Required Readings: (List books and journal articles separately; include approximate number of pages.)

Objectives:

Procedure:

Method of determining grade: (note that the "Description" paragraph at top of page states that a written report in scientific format is expected. Please include date for when this report will be completed. Note that a public presentation also needs to be completed before a grade can be assigned.)

Report Due Date: _____

Public Presentation Date: _____

Signature Signature: _____

NRES Faculty Affiliate Signature: _____

Co-Director Approval: _____