

# Responsibilities for Senior Thesis Students and Advisor/Evaluators

For a major in Environmental Studies, the senior project or thesis (ENVS-202) is a culminating, capstone experience. Concepts for possible projects or theses begin in the sophomore or junior year during ENVS-151. A detailed proposal planning the work to be undertaken then is developed in ENVS-201, *Research Methods*. During ENVS-201 the students select and have approved two advisors, at least one of which is a member of the Environmental Program faculty. Students seeking to receive Environmental Program Honors obtain three advisors, at least two of which are Program faculty members.

Below are the respective responsibilities of the student and the advisors/evaluators during this significant piece of work.

## *The Student's Responsibilities*

- During ENVS-151
  - initiate ideas for plausible ENVS-202 topics
- During ENVS-201
  - seek potential thesis/project advisors during the early weeks of ENVS-201
  - complete a detailed proposal for an ENVS-202 senior project or thesis
- During ENVS-201 and 202
  - secure two advisors (one must be ENVS) and obtain their signatures on an *Advisor/Evaluator Agreement Form*
  - work with the advisors during all phases of the ENVS-201/202 process
  - create drafts of proposal (in 201) and final project or thesis document (202)
  - seek peer or other editing; use the Writing Center and ENVS-202 “help sessions”
  - employ the *The Writer's Brief Handbook*
  - ensure correct and consistent citations in all materials
  - apply project or thesis methodology correctly and with professional integrity
- It is each student's responsibility to assure that the *Proposal* (in ENVS-201) and the *Final Document* (in ENVS-202) are well written, reviewed and edited, and free of grammatical, spelling, stylistic, and formatting errors.

## *The Advisor's Responsibilities*

- Throughout
  - assist in selecting and refining topics and methodologies
  - assist in organizing literature reviews, and identification of principal points
  - suggest resource persons, organizations, agencies, etc.
  - review survey, interview and questionnaire instruments
  - ensure work falls with in human subject and vertebrate animal guidelines
  - assist in overall design of final products
  - help identify key conclusions, and place them in broader contexts
  - identify topics and areas in drafts that need grammatical, spelling, stylistic, and formatting correction
- Final evaluation
  - evaluate the complete *Senior Project and Thesis* in a timely fashion using evaluation forms provided by The Environmental Program
- The advisor does **not** have the responsibility to provide detailed editing of grammar, spelling, style, and formatting, for the *Proposal* (in ENVS-201) or the *Final Document* (in ENVS-202).