Path toward Granting of Distinguished Independent Study in Biology

Semester(s) before making the decision to do an honors thesis in biology:
Typically, the student will have completed at least one semester of independent study (or an intensive summer) while registered in Biology 497. Most will have done an additional semester in the same laboratory while registered in Biology 498.

Semester before the student graduates:
Both the student and the faculty research advisor fill out the application form for Distinguished Independent Study by the middle of the semester.

Criteria for acceptance into the candidacy for Distinguished Independent Study:
1. Student must be a Biology major of at least junior standing
2. Student must have a GPA overall of 3.0 or better
3. Student must have a Biology GPA of 3.3 or better
4. Faculty advisor must agree to mentor the student through the research project, writing of the honors thesis, and defense of the thesis. This decision is usually based on the student’s performance and research results from the previous semester(s).
5. Student must provide a tentative thesis title and abstract of the proposed honors-level research, which must be biological in nature
6. The faculty mentor and student must form a suitable thesis committee of 3 members. Possible committee structures include:
   a. Biology Faculty member (Research Advisor/Thesis Committee Chair) plus two Biology faculty members. This is the norm.
   b. Committee composed as in (a), but where one committee member is a faculty member from another department, who is familiar with the subject matter of the research
   c. Committee composed as in (a) but where one committee member is postdoctoral research associate who is very familiar with the subject matter of the research
   d. The faculty research advisor may be a faculty member from another department. In that case, the research must be clearly biological in nature, and the other two members of the committee must be Biology faculty members. One of the Biology faculty members would act as Chair, and be responsible for the logistics and informing the Department office of successful completion of the thesis defense.

Semester when the student graduates:
The Distinguished Independent Study is granted only upon completion of the following:

1. Dean’s office form filled – due mid-term. Filling out this form means the student’s name and thesis title will appear in the graduation ceremony booklet. Faculty mentor should be very sure that the work will be done.
2. Thesis draft is prepared. Title page should follow the format on page 3 of this document
3. Thesis draft handed to thesis committee members and thesis defense scheduled two weeks before the defense date.
4. Thesis presentation to the thesis committee and invited guests. Each year, the date by which the defense must be completed will be announced.
5. Thesis presentation followed by successful thesis defense in front of the thesis committee. Unless drastic revisions are demanded by the thesis committee, thesis committee chair (faculty advisor) informs the Biology Department office of successful completion of the work. Use Honors Thesis Defense form on page 4 of this document.
6. The final form of thesis must be completed soon after the thesis defense. The original and at least four additional copies are to be delivered to the Circulation Desk at the Bartle Library for binding. The original and one copy goes to the library. The rest are for the student, the advisor and the Biology Dept. Students may provide more copies for binding. All binding costs are paid for by the student. Since the copy that will be used the most are the ones that go to the advisor and the department, images on those copies should be as good as the one on the original.
APPLICATION FOR DISTINGUISHED INDEPENDENT STUDY
(to be completed during the semester prior to the semester of graduation)

Student’s Name: ____________________________     Student # ________________
(Last)                       (First)                             (M.I.)

E-Mail Address:

Home Address and home telephone number:

Local Address and local (or cell) telephone number:

___ B.A. Biology ___ B.S. Biology (CMB concn)   ____ B.S. Biology (EEB concn)

Expected graduation ___ Fall    ___ Spring    ___ Summer    Year ____________

Independent study courses completed: Give type (Biol 497, 498) semester, year, faculty
research advisor, including research experiences at other institutions

Distinguished independent study work will be under guidance of:

Faculty research advisor: __________________________

Thesis committee: __________________________

                         __________________________

Thesis title to appear in graduation booklet

Thesis abstract (paragraph describing research goals, methods and preliminary results):

Please attach transcript of academic records

Student signature and date: __________________________

Faculty advisor’s signature and date: __________________________

Undergraduate director’s signature and date: __________________________
Larval Survival and Development Rate
in Two Competing Species of Mosquitoes

BY

Deborah Thomas

THESIS
Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Distinguished Independent Work in Biology
Binghamton University
State University of New York
2005
Accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Distinguished Independent Work in Biology
Binghamton University
State University of New York
2005

Name of thesis advisor ________________________________ May 5, 2005
Department of Biological Sciences

Name of committee member ________________________________ May 5, 2005
Department of Biological Sciences

Name of committee member ________________________________ May 5, 2005
Department of Biological Sciences
Honors Thesis Defense / Completion Form
(submit to Biology Dept. office, NOT to be included in the thesis)

Student’s Name

E-mail address

B.A. Biology  B.S. Biology (CMB)  B.S. Biology (EEB) please circle

Thesis title:

Defense date:

Passed
Thesis accepted

Faculty mentor: ________________________________

Faculty mentor’s signature ____________________________ Date: _________________

Where should the students’ bound copy(ies) of the thesis be sent to? Give complete address with zip code.