

SENIOR THESIS (FANR 4600) FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SENIOR THESIS AND SENIOR PROJECT?

To graduate from the Professional Program of the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, students are required to complete FANR 4500, Senior Project, or FANR 4600, Senior Thesis. Most students will take Senior Project, but a limited number may be permitted to enroll in Senior Thesis. FANR 4600 differs from FANR 4600 in the following ways:

Senior Thesis requires completion of a *research* project; Senior Project usually requires completion of a management project.

Senior Thesis is normally conducted *individually*; Senior Project is normally conducted in teams of two or three students.

Enrollment in Senior Thesis is by *permission only*; enrollment in Senior Project is open to all BSFR candidates with the necessary prerequisites.

Enrollment in Senior Thesis is intended for students with a strong commitment to pursue a research career.

HOW DO I GET PERMISSION TO REGISTER FOR SENIOR THESIS?

Students must first identify a faculty member willing to supervise the Senior Thesis. Faculty members are not obligated to honor student requests to serve as thesis supervisors. They are most likely to accede if the student (1) has a GPA above 3.0, (2) has a clear interest in pursuing a research career, and (3) has a suitable research proposal prepared in advance.

Students should apply to enroll in Senior Thesis BEFORE the midpoint of the semester before the course will be taken. Applications need to be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in Building 1 room 203.

WHAT IS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

Each Senior Thesis will have an Advisory Committee composed of the faculty supervisor and two additional faculty members (or surrogates approved by the thesis supervisor).

The Advisory Committee (1) provides counsel in the conduct of the thesis research, (2) evaluates the student's effort in the thesis project, and (3) assesses the student's comprehensive knowledge of material covered in the program of study.

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE? HOW IS THE COURSE GRADED?

Students must complete a research project, including (in most cases) the collection and analysis of data to answer a specified research question.

Students are required to submit a *written report* and deliver an *oral presentation* on their thesis research.

The Advisory Committee will determine the structure and content of the report and oral presentation (normally a research journal format will be requested).

The oral report must be delivered to members of the Senior Project class. *Students should schedule a time for their presentation with the Senior Project instructors.*

Senior Thesis students are required to attend Senior Project presentations as if they were members of the Senior Project class.

Students are invited (and may be required by their Advisory Committees) to attend Senior Project class lectures (e.g. those on oral presentation preparation).

The *final grade will be assigned by the faculty supervisor*, in consultation with the other members of the advisory committee, based on the oral and written reports and diligence in performing the thesis research.

WHAT IS A SUITABLE RESEARCH PROJECT?

Research projects require an independent field, laboratory, or computer-based research experience;

They must be drawn from the students field of study and require the student to utilize a broad range of skills and knowledge obtained in their professional education;

They must be completed within the time frame and resources available to the student;

They may be components of larger research projects conducted by researchers at UGA or elsewhere, if they can be posed as discrete questions that are answered primarily through the student's effort.