State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

Instructions and Guidelines for Formatting a Thesis or Dissertation

Updated March 2018
### Table of Contents

1. Requirements and Guidelines for Completing Graduate Theses and Dissertations .................................................. 3
2. Formatting the Thesis or Dissertation - Sequencing of Pages: ................................................................................. 3
3. Submitting your Electronic Thesis or Dissertation: ................................................................................................. 6
4. Manuscript Format or Other Type of Style Guide (approved by individual departments)...................................... 7
5. Bibliography or References ......................................................................................................................................... 8
6. Sample Title Page ....................................................................................................................................................... 10
   Sample Copyright Page .................................................................................................................................................. 11
   Sample Acknowledgements Page ................................................................................................................................ 12
   Sample Table of Contents ........................................................................................................................................... 13
   Sample List of Tables Organized by Chapter ............................................................................................................. 16
   Sample Abstract Page .................................................................................................................................................... 17
7. Logging into Your Syracuse Google Account ........................................................................................................... 19
8. Final Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form (Attachment A) ......................................................................................... 21
9. Dissertation/Thesis Library Submission Form (Attachment B) .................................................................................... 22
10. Thesis Processing Fee Form (Attachment C) ............................................................................................................... 24
11. Graduation and Key Return Form (Attachment D) ..................................................................................................... 25
1. Requirements and Guidelines for Completing Graduate Theses and Dissertations

The following are ESF requirements and guidelines for preparing and submitting theses and dissertations. Individual departments may have additional requirements. It is recommended that the student consult with the department and/or major professor regarding the proper guidelines. The general style manual for the College is Council of Science Editors Style Manual, available in the reference area of Moon Library and at the Reference Desk of Bird Library. A department may opt to use a style manual that is more discipline-oriented, and in doing so, accepts the responsibility of communicating this preference along with any other special requirements to the graduate students concerned. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the style manual and any special requirements of the department. The document should state the style manual that is being used, if other than Council of Science Editors. Be sure to use this style during document preparation; simply because the style is different or unfamiliar does not mean this point can be ignored.

The College now participates in electronic archiving through the Moon Library called Digital Commons. The submission of your graduate thesis/dissertation to Moon Library's Digital Commons repository will open your work to the world, if you allow availability. The Digital Commons is fully google-searchable and provides open access to your work, allowing anyone to download and make non-commercial use of it. Electronic theses and dissertations draw hundreds of downloads from repositories every month. Prospective employers have been known to use electronic thesis and dissertations to scout new potential hires. For these reasons it is vital that you ensure that the work you provide is the final version, ready to be shared with the world.

In order to give the Digital Commons a non-exclusive right to reproduce and distribute in electronic format via the World Wide Web, students must agree and sign the “Dissertation/Thesis Library Submission Form” (Attachment B on page 21). Students always have the option of restricting access in the permanent digital archive to local access only (available to ESF students/faculty/staff).

2. Formatting the Thesis or Dissertation - Sequencing of Pages:

Front Matter:
Front matter is the “preliminary” parts of the thesis or dissertation, including the Title Page, Table of Contents, Lists of Tables, and Figures, etc. Each of these pages is numbered using lower case Roman numerals, (for example, i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, etc.) at the bottom right-hand margin. Each page is accounted for in the running total, however the number is not shown on the Title or Copyright pages. The following is a list of typical front matter pages included in theses and dissertations here at ESF:

The Title Page (Counts as Roman Numeral “i” – the page number does not appear on this page). The student is considered the author of any thesis or dissertation and as such only the student's name shall appear on the title page, besides the following names: the Major
Professor (or co-Major Professors, where applicable), the Department Chairperson or Graduate Coordinator, and the Chair of the Examining Committee and the Dean Shannon from the Graduate School. The date listed on the title page should be the month and year in which the document was successfully defended. For example, if the defense is April 12, 2017, the date on the title page should be “April 2017”. The names of the major professor, co-major professor, defense exam chair, Department chair, and Dean should be typed below the degree program for easy identification and future reference.

Copyright-optional (Counts as Roman Numeral “ii”– the page number does not appear on this page) The Copyright Act of 1989 does not require that published works carry a copyright notice in order to secure copyright protection.

Acknowledgments-optional (page numbering does appear on this page as either ii or iii, depending on whether a Copyright page is included). When the author feels that acknowledgements are necessary, it should be remembered that brevity is a virtue. Do not reference acknowledgements in Table of Contents. This appears after the Title Page and/or Copyright page if Copyright page is included in the document (see sample format on page 12).

Table of Contents - Depending on whether copyright page and or acknowledgment page is included, it should appear as Roman Numeral “ii,” “iii,” or “iv,” and the page number must be included on the page, in the bottom right-hand corner. The Table of Contents should not list the content on any pages preceding it (i.e., title page, copyright notice, acknowledgements). The wording of the chapter titles and all subheadings should exactly follow the wording within the body of the paper. Omit underlining in the Table of Contents. Period leaders between headings and page numbers should be used (see sample format on page 14). All page numbers must be aligned to the right of the page. Set up Table of Contents using Word to ensure alignment and proper page numbering.

List of Tables - A Roman numeral page number must appear on page in the bottom right margin. Following the Table of Contents, the wording of the List of Tables should follow the exact formatting within the body of the paper. Omit underlining in the List of Tables. Period leaders between headings and page numbers should be used. The List of Tables and List of Figures should be on separate pages (see sample format on page 16).

List of Figures - A Roman numeral page number must appear on page in the bottom right margin. Following the List of Tables, the wording of the List of Figures should follow the exact formatting within the body of the paper. Omit underlining in the List of Tables. Period leaders between headings and page numbers should be used.

List of Appendices - A Roman numeral page number must appear on page in the bottom right margin. Following the List of Figures, the wording of the List of Appendices should follow the exact formatting within the body of the paper. Omit underlining in the List of Appendices. Period leaders between headings and page numbers should be used. A List of Appendices is only appropriate when the document contains multiple appendices.
Abstract with Key Words - The abstract is the last page using pagination in Roman numerals. The abstract summarizes a thesis or dissertation. The abstract page is required and will contain key words listed a few lines below the abstract. Abstracts are bound with the document and are not to exceed 150 words for a master's thesis, or 350 words for a doctoral dissertation. If the thesis or dissertation is divided into manuscript style, the main abstract should be inclusive of all manuscript content included in the document. Each manuscript may include its own abstract, without a particular word limit. Likewise, the conclusion section should be a synthesis of all included manuscripts. (Sample on page 18).

Body - The “body” of the thesis or dissertation is comprised of the various chapters of text. Here the pagination changes to the use of more familiar Arabic numerals (i.e. 1,2,3, etc.). Switch to Arabic numbering, starting with page 1; a page number must appear on this page if there is any substantive text; if the first page of the body only includes a chapter name or part designation with no substantive text, the visible numbering may begin on the following page with “2”).

Chapters or Main Division of the Body - For the chapters and the remainder of the manuscript, including text, charts, illustrations, appendices, bibliography, vita, etc., use Arabic numerals (1,2,3, etc.). Each page must be consecutively numbered in the bottom right-hand margin at the foot of the page. Do not use letter suffixes such as 10a, 10b. The numbering begins with 1 and runs consecutively to the last page of the paper.

The following are traditional components of the body to be included in a thesis or dissertation at ESF:

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Models and Materials
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions

Back Matter:
The “back matter” is the material following and supporting the main body or text of the thesis or dissertation. Pagination for the back matter remains in sequence and style with the body using Arabic numerals. Arabic page numbering continues consecutively from the Body through the Back Matter section. Following are traditional components of the back matter to be included in theses or dissertations at ESF:

- Reference list or Bibliography
- Appendices
- Resume or Vita (This is the last page of the document and should include the last Arabic page number)

Reference this helpful video for tips on breaking up pages and page number conventions in Microsoft Word, but do not follow the formatting suggested by the video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGzz2ZmLrFw
3. Submitting your Electronic Thesis or Dissertation:

Students must submit draft documents of the thesis or dissertation electronically via pdf for format review at least two weeks prior to the semester deadline for submission. The draft of the thesis or dissertation will be reviewed by Suzette Vandeburg (svandeburg@esf.edu), the Assistant Dean, and returned to the student with formatting comments. The Assistant Dean will review only the format, and not the contents of the complete document. If you do not hear back from OIGS, do not assume everything is correct. Check with the office before you submit your final copy.

Once the document has been reviewed for formatting errors and approved by the committee for submission, students are required to complete the library submission form and return it OIGS. Final theses/dissertations should be submitted to Google Forms for the Digital Commons (https://goo.gl/forms/2lufNScNbLUMCu52). If you do not have a Google account, please see the instructions below for accessing Google through your Syracuse account. Students should get the “Final Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form” also known as the Form 8a (see Attachment A) signed by all listed members on the Title Page and turn in to OIGS, 227 Bray Hall, for processing your degree completion before the end of the semester. Students in the Division of Engineering must also obtain the signature of the Director of the Division of Engineering on the Final Thesis/Dissertation Submittal Form (8a).

Pay your Thesis Processing Fee to the Cashier. The form is located on Attachment C on page 23.

Don’t forget to turn in your Graduation and Key Return Form found on Attachment D on page 24.

Quick Check List before submitting your final electronic thesis or dissertation manuscript to OI&GS and Google Forms, make sure you:

- Select fonts between 10-12 characters per inch; use no font size smaller than 10 point; use the same font style and print size throughout the document;
- Use lines spacing no more condensed than double spaced.
- Number page numbering is in the lower right-hand corner of the document;
- Include your vita/resume as the last page(s) of the thesis or dissertation. Include in Table of Contents;
- Spell check all pages - especially the acknowledgment page;
- Margins should be one inch around;
- Make sure all pages are included and in correct order;
- Make sure you have not passed your delimitation date (If so, complete a time list extension form: Time Limit Extension Form);
- NEVER copy formatting from someone else’s thesis or dissertation—it may not be correct.
- Once formatting has been approved by OIGS, and you have successfully completed all edits Download, fill out and submit the Dissertation/Thesis Library Submission Form (Form 8a) to OIGS.
• Using the following link, upload your final document using Google Forms for transfer into the Digital Commons. Your thesis or dissertation will not appear in the Digital Commons unless we receive the licensing form.
• Pay thesis fees to Cashier.
• Turn in the Graduation and Key Return Form to OIGS.
• Candidates for the PhD degree are also required to submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates. The survey can be found online.

If you wish to have personal copies bound, we found a bindery in Rochester, NY. You will have to upload a PDF of the document. Please note this is not an endorsement of this bindery, but simply the name of a bindery that might produce single copies: Book1One at https://www.book1one.com/ in Rochester.

The Department of Landscape Architecture requires students to include the following disclaimer in all theses:

The ideas and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and should not be interpreted as those of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Theses and dissertations will be acceptable as first determined by individual departments. The student's selection of this format must be in keeping with guidelines established by each participating Department and have the prior approval of the student's major professor and steering committee.

4. Manuscript Format or Other Type of Style Guide (approved by individual departments)
The “Title Page” should remain unnumbered, and all the rest of the front matter (i.e. the pages following the Title Page, and ending with the Abstract) should be numbered in lower-case Roman numerals, starting with “ii” at the bottom right-hand margin. The front matter should be ordered as shown below, so that the Abstract is the last page numbered with lower-case Roman numerals. The page following the Abstract, which is the first page of the body of the document (Chapter 1/Introduction), should start with page “1” and Arabic numerals should run thereafter until the last page of the student’s vita at the very end of the document. Share the name of the style guide on Abstract page with OIGS.

| Front Matter:       | Title page          |
|                    | Acknowledgments    |
|                    | Table of Contents   |
|                    | Abstract            |

| Body:              | Introduction        |
|                    | Manuscripts         |
|                    | Conclusions         |
Students shall submit a vita or resume (see Sample Format on page 19) as the last page of the thesis or dissertation. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that components of all submitted documents are in the correct order, with all pages included.

5. Bibliography or References

The office of OIGS recommends that students follow the standard citation format used for the journal publications in the student's field of study. The format must be consistent throughout the manuscript and placement of the bibliography or references should come at the end of the manuscript. Students may also opt to use the Council of Science Editors (CSE) style guide to format their references. Following are some examples of references in the name-year sequence of the CSE style guide. Please refer to the CSE style guide for more information.


Print Citation Example taken from CSE Style Guide using the Name-Year Sequence:

Conference Paper:

The CSE style for citing journal articles on the internet includes:
Author(s), Date of publication. Title of article. Title of journal (edition) [internet]. [date updated; date cited] volume (issue): cited pages. Available from: http:___url (.doi: if available). It is also acceptable to cite electronic journal articles using the Bibliography or Reference style as long providing the electronic version is the same as the paper version.

Example of a Web page/No Author Listed:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) [Internet]. [updated]. Columbus (OH): Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; [cited 2007 Jul 24]. Available from: http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/health/eab.htm
Example of an Electronic Article:

References

University Microfilms, Inc. Publishing Your Dissertation: How to Prepare Your Manuscript for Publication. [D-559D 35M 1993].
6. Sample Title Page

AN EXPLORATION INTO THE COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
SCIENCE EDUCATORS: A CASE STUDY WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROJECT LEARNING TREE

by

Sara Velardi

A thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the
Master of Science Degree
State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York
May 2014

Department of Environmental and Forest Biology

Approved by:
Elizabeth Folta, Major Professor
Yuan-Zong Lai, Chair, Examining Committee
Donald Leopold, Department Chair
S. Scott Shannon, Dean, The Graduate School

For doctoral students, replace “Master of Science” with “Doctor of Philosophy”. Use month and year of the actual defense.
Acknowledgements

There are many people to thank for this research project. First of all I would like to thank my major professor, Beth Folta for guiding me through the interpretation program at SUNY-ESF, giving me advice on research, jobs and goals for my future. I would like to thank her for introducing me to this research project and giving me the opportunity to work closely and learn so much from the environmental education organization Project Learning Tree®. Furthermore I would like to thank Project Learning Tree® and all of their help and support throughout this research project. I would especially like to thank Tom Shimalla and Betsy Ukeritis. Betsy, thank you so much for answering all my emails at a moment’s notice and always putting me into contact with the right person to answer all of my questions. Tom, thank you very much for your consistent communication throughout the project, always providing quick feedback and guidance on the research process.

And thank you very much to my steering committee, Laura Rickard and Diane Kuehn for their feedback and support throughout the research process. Also thank you to Steve Stehman for providing guidance and advice on my statistics for this project.

Lastly, I’d like to thank my parents for always supporting me in whatever educational endeavor I set out to do. Thank you for listening to all of the highs and lows of this research project and giving me the consistent support I needed to keep moving forward.
Sample Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES .................................................................................................................. vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES ................................................................................................................... vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF APPENDICES .............................................................................................................. viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract ..................................................................................................................................... ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERVIEW ................................................................................................................................. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CULTURAL HISTORY OF WILDERNESS ...................................................................................... 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERCEPTIONS AND MAPPING ..................................................................................................... 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE ADIRONDACK STATE PARK, NEW YORK ............................................................................. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THESIS SUMMARY ................................................................................................................... 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE CITED .................................................................................................................... 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 2: WILDERNESS PERCEPTIONS AMONG COMMUNITIES IN THE ADIRONDACK STATE PARK, NEW YORK ......................................................................................... 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................................................... 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness and the Adirondack Park, New York ....................................................................... 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYPOTHESES ............................................................................................................................ 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHODS ................................................................................................................................... 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area .................................................................................................................................. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Instrument ...................................................................................................................... 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis ............................................................................................................................. 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESULTS ..................................................................................................................................... 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Instrument ....................................................................................................................... 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Population ....................................................................................................................... 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Perceptions: Total Scores ...................................................................................... 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Perceptions: Purism Scale and Distribution ........................................................... 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION ............................................................................................................................... 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE CITED .................................................................................................................... 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 3: MAPPING THE WILDERNESS PERCEPTIONS OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK, NEW YORK ................................................................. 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Legislation and the History of the Adirondack Park, NY ....................................... 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHODS ................................................................................................................................... 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area .................................................................................................................................. 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Data ................................................................................................................................. 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping ..................................................................................................................................... 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparisons of Perceived and Legislated Wilderness ............................................................. 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESULTS ..................................................................................................................................... 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Extent and Total Area ......................................................................................................... 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived and Designated Wilderness ...................................................................................... 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implications for WILDERNESS and Management in the Adirondacks .................................... 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSIONS ........................................................................................................ 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALUE OF COMBINED METHODS ............................................................................................. 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILDERNESS PERCEPTIONS IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK ..................................................... 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RESEARCH ....................................................................................... 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE CITED .................................................................................................................... 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESUME ..................................................................................................................................... 124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

vi vii viii ix 1 1 2 9 11 14 16 20 21 25 26 27 27 30 33 35 35 37 39 42 46 52 56 60 63 63 64 65 74 75 75 80 89 94 94 95 96 98 124
Proper format for a Table of Contents, listing only the sections of the document that appear AFTER the Table of Contents (i.e., omitting the Acknowledgements, Copyright, and Table of Contents). The Table of Contents should be formatted in Word, with page numbers aligned to the right and page leaders between the headings and page numbers. See the following page for instructions on constructing a Table of Contents in Word 2007.

A Table of Contents can be constructed in Word based on a pre-existing document with headings and subheadings. Insert the cursor at the start of the document, or where you intend the Table of Contents to appear. In Word 2007, navigate to the References tab, select Table of Contents, Automatic Table 2. This will insert a blank Table of Contents, as seen below.

![Table of Contents](image)

**Table of Contents**

Next, select content to add to the table by highlighting various headers and using “Add Text” under the References tab. Here, you can define the levels of text, which corresponds to the indentation and order in the Table of Contents. You will have to “Update Table” after you “Add Text.”

Word will typically reformat your document text once you “Add Text.” You can either reformat the text within the document, or reformat the style for the document under Home tab, Styles, then select each layer of text (e.g., TOC 1, TOC2, TOC3, etc.) and select Modify. Here, you can set the text to a specific color, size, or format (bold, italics, capitalized). You can also edit text appearance within the Table of Contents.

Each time you Add Text to the table, or change the page location of a heading, you will need to update the table by clicking on the Table of Contents.

For more information on setting up a table of contents, visit:
Formatting a List of Figures and List of Tables is a similar process, but through different options in Word 2007. First, you must designate the number and description of each table/figure as a Caption. Select the table or figure then under the References tab, select Insert Caption. In the space provided, enter the description of the table or figure. It is likely that Word 2007 will reformat your text, but you can define the format within the Home tab, styles, captions, then modify.

To organize tables/figures by chapters, you can either use a precise numeric or you can create new, specific labels for the tables and figures of each chapter within Insert Caption. You should create captions before you insert the Lists. Once you have entered all the captions, you can create Lists for Tables and then Figures, or organize each of those lists by chapters. Tables are updated by selecting Update Table from the Captions section on the References tab. A similar List can be created for Appendices, if the end of your document contains multiple Appendices. The List of Tables, List of Figures, and optional List of Appendices are the first items to appear in the Table of Contents. Throughout all tables, remove any optional hyperlinks and use page leaders.

For more information, visit:


Sample List of Tables Organized by Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF TABLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 1: Adirondack community characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2: Summary of survey efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3: Scale items representing wilderness attributes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4: Summary of surveys collected by sample group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 5: Survey respondent distribution among U.S. States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6: Comparison of mean demographics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7: Desirability of scale items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 1: Data files used to represent survey items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2: Buffer distances (km) for undesirable items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3: Percent of layer total area out of Adirondack Park total area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4: Overlap between areas perceived as wilderness and APA designations</td>
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</table>

The List of Figures and List of Appendices are both similar.
Abstract


Wilderness can be understood via individual perceptions that may contrast with legal definitions. This contrast was explored within the Adirondack Park (NY), a unique combination of land uses and stakeholders with a history of conflict over policies that restricted development to conserve natural resources. This research used wilderness perception mapping (WPM) to identify differences between perceived and legal wilderness in the Adirondacks, based on the desirability of landscape characteristics (e.g., maintained campsites) reported by questionnaires. I used this approach to gain insights on differences among stakeholders and communities, and to construct maps of wilderness perceptions to compare with existing land use classifications. Survey and map analyses indicated clear differences among stakeholders, particularly between residents and non-residents, and between legally designated and perceived wilderness areas. These insights contribute to a greater understanding of diverse stakeholder groups and improved management of the Adirondack Park landscape and natural resources.

The maximum acceptable length for an abstract to be published in Master’s Thesis Directories is 150 words, and the maximum acceptable length for a dissertation to be published is 350 words. It is in your best interest to maintain this maximum. You can prepare more lengthy abstracts within each document chapter.

Key Words: stakeholder groups, Adirondack communities, purism scale, geographic information systems.

S.H. Velardi
Candidate for the degree of Master of Science, May 2014
Elizabeth Folta, Ph.D.
Department of Environmental and Forest Biology
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York

Month and year of defense. Should match the date printed on the title page.

For Co-major professors, list both names
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Wilderness designation and preservation is based on current legal policy that defines the wilderness concept. An alternative understanding of wilderness can be gained via individual or cultural perceptions. The Adirondack State Park of New York provides an ideal environment for the study of wilderness perceptions, with a six million acre mixed landscape of public and private lands and a history of conflict between residents and nonresidents over the use of Adirondack lands and resources. Wilderness perception research in the Adirondack Park could improve the understanding of differences among stakeholders and assist managers and policymakers seeking to balance conservation and development in this unique wilderness landscape.

This begins page number 1, which runs in sequence throughout the remaining document. The final page of the document must contain the student’s resume or Vita. Students can either include the current version of their resume or Vita, or can follow the formatting guide provided below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Job Title</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

nth page number
7. **Logging into Your Syracuse Google Account**

You may not think you have one, but if you are an ESF student, you do.

1. If you are signed into google, sign out from whatever app you’re using, like gmail.

![Sign out from Google](image1)

2. Using your favorite web browser, go to [accounts.google.com](http://accounts.google.com). You should find yourself at the page below:

![Google Accounts Page](image2)

You’ll likely see accounts you commonly use. Click “Use another account”
3. Sign in using your NETID with the domain g.syr.edu.
   So if your name is Jane Mary Banks, your email address would be jmbanks@g.syr.edu

![Sign in with your Google Account](image1)

4. This will take you to the login screen below.

![Log in to Google Apps](image2)

Log into this screen using your NETID and usual password.

You should now be logged into your syr.edu google account and able to use all of Google applications, including Google Forms.
8. Final Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form

Name of Student: ___________________________ SU ID________________________

Title of Thesis/Dissertation: ___________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Total number of pages (including title page, front matter, chapters, and vita or resume)________

The above named thesis/dissertation has been approved, including the abstract page, in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy Degree, State
University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York.

________________________   ______________________________
Month and year of Defense   Name of Department or Program

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