

## UVA UNDERGRADUATE SEAS THESIS ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Reader # \_\_\_\_\_

Student # \_\_\_\_\_

*This guide is intended to help evaluators assess the writing competency of SEAS students as exhibited in undergraduate theses. Evaluators should use the numerical scores **and** their overall assessment of each thesis in determining the overall level of writing competency.*

**(1=Seldom or Never, 2=Occasionally, 3=Regularly, 4=Consistently)**

**Overall Design:** Imaginatively conceived, thoroughly researched, convincingly expressed, and/or potentially significant. **1 2 3 4**

**Style:** Presents ideas in a manner that is clear, concise, readable, mature, and polished, with a minimum of grammatical errors. **1 2 3 4**

**Introduction:** Establishes meaningful context and significance of project for multiple audiences; grounds research thoroughly in literature; clearly defines problem and scope; explains key concepts; previews structure of remainder of report. **1 2 3 4**

**Methods:** Adequately justifies and clearly describes project design. **1 2 3 4**

**Results:** Presents data with verbal and visual clarity; emphasizes central Research finding; fully explains and illustrates design and use of final product or conclusion. **1 2 3 4**

**Interpretation:** Reaches synthesis that is related to context established in introduction; shows logical flow from data and argument to conclusions; assesses ethical and social impact; recognizes limitations of this research and makes recommendations for future work. **1 2 3 4**

**Organization:** Is logically divided into unified and coherent chapters, sections, and paragraphs; strong transitions that link each chapter to whole and establish flow between sentences and paragraphs. **1 2 3 4**

**Graphics:** Includes enough appropriate and clearly understandable figures and tables, which are well integrated with text, adequately interpreted, clearly labeled and captioned, large enough, and printed darkly. **1 2 3 4**

**Documentation:** Adequately supports argument with references cited in the text, using correct and consistent style, and a bibliography that is thorough (depth and breadth) and correct in form. **1 2 3 4**

**Mechanics:** Features meaningful and consistent chapter and section headings, proper use of formatting conventions, numbered pages, standard capitalization, and few typographical errors. **1 2 3 4**