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.

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

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.

Methods: Adequately justifies and clearly describes project design.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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