The thesis proposal should make a convincing scholarly case regarding your proposed thesis topic. It should be written in an academic and professional tone, in either first or second person, and must incorporate citations throughout (either in-text or footnotes). Please proofread and check for grammatical errors prior to submission. Proposals are typically 5 – 10 pages in length and are required to be written in the format below, with headings included.

THESIS TITLE

YOUR NAME

INTRODUCTION & THESIS STATEMENT

The introduction sets the context for your proposed project and captures the reader’s interest. Your introduction should include a thesis statement that takes the form of a hypothesis, research questions, project or goal statement. The thesis statement should capture the essence of your intended research topic and also help put boundaries around what you intend to do. If proposing a project based thesis, your introduction should detail both the project itself and the required written, research portion of the thesis.

When you select your select topic consider the scope and whether this is a manageable project to complete within your proposed timeline. Alternatively consider whether there sufficient scholarly research to support your proposed topic. Even when relying primarily on primary data collection, all theses should incorporate secondary research, so an understanding of the existing body of literature on your topic is critical.

If your project is connected to research done with support from a university or SCHC grant (Magellan, SURF, Exploration, etc) please explain in this section (3-5 sentences) how your thesis project will expand upon that supported project. Your honors thesis should not simply be a resubmission of the work done for your grant, but should be an extension of this research, whether through a more comprehensive write up of the project, an analysis of a separate facet of your data, a comparison to the existing body of literature, etc.

APPROACH OR METHODOLOGY

You should provide a specific, detailed indication of how you will go about assessing the key questions and/or thesis statement, and why the proposed methodology constitutes the best way to pursue the study objectives. This section should be highly detailed and answer the following questions:

- What methods will be used? What types of methodological models will you follow?
- Do you plan to collect data and if so how will it be collected and analyzed? If you plan to administer a survey, conduct interviews or a focus group, identify the intended target population (i.e college students from SC) and the number of respondents/participants you hope to include.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND SIGNIFICANCE (ANTICIPATED OUTCOME)

What do you expect to produce or learn or create through this thesis/thesis project? How will it be significant in your field or discipline? In short, what results are you anticipating and what meaningful issues/questions will they address?

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY – 5 sources in accepted format for field (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

This section includes your thesis statement with supporting bibliographic references indicating a grasp of the subject and the conceptual ability to carry out the thesis proposal. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (approximately 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, which is the annotation. The purpose is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. These five sources, which should be scholarly/academic, should also be cited, where relevant, in the other sections of your proposal.

TIMELINE

Include a timeline outlining your planned research and writing. Items to include are the IRB application, meetings with your thesis director and/or second reader, data collection, draft submission, tentative defense date, etc. This timeline can take any format of your choosing but should be a detailed plan of how you will structure your time between now and your completion of the thesis.