Project Title

Your Name
College of Information and Computer Sciences
your.email@umass.edu
Date

Advisor: Name
Second Committee Member: Name
Research Type: Thesis or Project

1. Introduction

What are you researching and why?(2 pages)

- General description of your Honors Thesis/Project topic.
- Thesis: Statement of the research problem you will focus on.
- Project: Statement of the research system you will build.
- Overview of the methodology you will use.

2. Significance

- Explanation of the significance of the problem you will study or the system you will build.
- Explain the importance to the work to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline.

3. Background

What have other researchers already written/published on your topic? (2-7 pages)

- Demonstrate your understanding of the primary literature you covered in 499Y.
- Consult your research committee chair about additional key literature needed for your Honors Thesis/Project manuscript.
- Consult your advisor about what citations style to use and use it consistently.
- If you have a significant Preliminary Findings section below, this section may be on the shorter side of the page range. If you do not have preliminary findings, this section should be 5-7 pages.

4. Methodology

How are you conducting your research? (2-3 pages)

- Present a detailed description of the methodology or tools that you will use to perform research in the area that you have selected. For example, if you will be building a software system, what is the system architecture, what languages, frameworks, or APIs

will you use? If you will be working on theory, what key prior results and techniques will you be building on? If you are doing experimental work, describe experimental designs.
- Describe any specialized training you have received or will receive to conduct your research (e.g., lab safety certification or human/animal testing), and indicate who provided the training.

5. Preliminary Findings

What have you accomplished already? (length may vary)

- Describe any preliminary research findings from 499Y. Describe what you have accomplished so far.
- In some cases, you might have already completed much of the research described in the proposal, in which case this section could be quite long. The text from this section can be reused for the final thesis document.
- In other cases, 499Y may have only involved a literature review and additional learning already reviewed in Section 3, in which case this section should state that there are no preliminary research findings at this time.

6. Evaluation

How will your work be reviewed and graded? (1-2 pages)

- Break your research into a sequence of milestones that can be evaluated individually (you should strongly avoid setting up a situation where successful completion of your project hinges on achieving a single monolithic goal).
- Describe the work to be completed in each milestone in detail.
- Specify how each of your individual milestones will be evaluated.
- Specify how your overall research will be evaluated depending on how many of your milestones are achieved.
- Describe how your committee will provide feedback regarding your progress.
- If you are registering for an Honors Project, be specific about the artifact that you will produce in addition to the Project manuscript (for most students, this will just be CD/DVD with a copy of your code).

7. Communication

What are the expectations about meetings with your committee chair and other committee member(s)? Be specific. (1 paragraph)

- How often are you meeting with your committee chair? How often will you meet with the full committee?
- What are your committee chair's expectations of such meetings? What are your committee members' expectations about meeting with you?
- What time commitment (number of hours of work per week) is expected to be applied to your research between meetings with your committee chair?

8. Timeline

- MM/DD/YY: Milestone 1
- MM/DD/YY: Milestone 2
- MM/DD/YY: Milestone 3
- …
- MM/DD/YY: 1st Draft of thesis submitted to advisor
  (No later than 2 weeks before the last day of classes)
- MM/DD/YY: 2nd Draft of Thesis submitted to HPD
  (No later than 1 week before the last day of classes)
- MM/DD/YY: Oral Defense (No Later than last day of classes)
- MM/DD/YY: Final Submission to CHC (No Later than last day of classes)

9. References

- You should include references for all of the key readings from your 499Y semester plan.
- A total of 5+ references is expected
- Use the reference and citation style used in your research sub-area.