

Undergraduate Scholar Program

Paper/Thesis Guidelines and Policies

- Topic:** To be determined in consultation with faculty director. The topic should be inherently geographic.
- Length:** To be determined in consultation with faculty director. Paper/Thesis should be sufficient in length to provide an adequate coverage of the topic.
- Style:** Turabian – author/date with in-text parenthetical citations
- Format:**
- Title page** – contains title of paper, author, date
 - Title** – this appears again at the top center of the first page
 - Problem Statement** – contains a brief introduction, a general description of the geographic problem, the specific problem to be studied, the significance or relevance of the problem, and key questions to be answered
 - Objective(s)** – this briefly explains the purpose of the research
 - Hypothesis(es)** – brief statement of hypothesis, hypotheses, or expected results (if applicable)
 - Review of the Literature** – this section ties your paper into an existing body of research and literature by identifying and summarizing the content of a small number of sources of current literature that are related to your topic, but not used by you as a source. For example, if you write about the settlement of the Ozarks, your literature review would include sources about settlement and mountain settlement in general
 - Methodology** – if applicable, this section contains brief statements about research design, location of the study, sampling design and procedures (if there are any), data collection methods, and data analysis procedures. Some papers may not require a methodological discussion
 - Discussion/Findings** – this is the main body of the paper that discusses the findings of the research and the results of the analyses
 - Conclusion** – this briefly ends the paper and suggests other possible lines of research related to this topic
 - Literature/References Cited** – this is an alphabetized listing of the sources from which you gathered information (Turabian author/date format)
 - Illustrations** – maps, photographs, graphs, and other illustrations should be professionally done, referred to in the text, and positioned in the paper immediately following the reference
 - Tables** – tables should follow a Turabian format