Guidelines for QSS Honors Theses

This document lays out several key dates and principles for honors theses written in the Program in Quantitative Social Science.

• No later than the third Friday of the Fall Quarter, each student must inform the QSS Chair as to the name of his or her thesis advisor. In communicating this information to the QSS Chair, the thesis-writing student should send a short paragraph or two explaining the research question being addressed in the proposed thesis.

• No later than the sixth Friday of the Fall Quarter, each student must submit to his or her advisor and to the QSS Chair an initial draft of a research proposal. This proposal should state the research question being studied; it should provide a motivation for the question; it should contain an initial literature review; and, it should explain the anticipated contribution of the thesis to the literature being reviewed. The QSS Chair and thesis advisor will read the proposal and provide feedback.

• No later than the ninth Friday of the Fall Quarter, each student must submit to his or her advisor and to the QSS Chair an updated research proposal that reflects comments received by the student’s advisor and the QSS Chair. This draft will be circulated to the QSS Steering Committee for comments and feedback.

• By the second Friday of the Winter Quarter, each student should have an expanded proposal that incorporates feedback from the QSS Steering Committee and includes an anticipated timeline for the remainder of the academic year.

• During the Winter Quarter and possibly into the Spring Quarter, all students writing theses will meet as a group on a regular (generally weekly) basis with the QSS Chair or with someone designated by the Chair. At these meetings, students will describe to each other the progress of their research programs.

• All QSS theses will be presented and defended approximately two weeks before the last day of Spring Quarter classes. Hardcopy versions of theses are due to the QSS Chair three weeks before the last day of Spring Quarter as specified by the Dartmouth College Registrar. Any request to change the due date for a QSS honors thesis must be approved by the QSS Steering Committee.

• Each QSS thesis will be evaluated by the relevant thesis advisor, a second reader, who is appointed by the QSS Chair, and the QSS Chair. Based on suggestions from advisors, second readers, and QSS Steering Committee members, the QSS Chair will make a proposal to the QSS Steering Committee regarding honors standing for QSS theses. The Committee will have ultimate authority over deciding whether a thesis is considered incomplete, complete, worthy of honors, or worthy of high honors.

1 Approved by the QSS Steering Committee during Winter, 2016, and effective as of July, 1, 2016.