

Honors Senior Spotlight



Katrina Vickery, '21

Hometown: Franklin, MA

Major: Marine Biology and Environmental Science

Thesis Title: *An Evaluation of the Perceptions of Environmental Educators Towards Online Education and the Effectiveness of Various Online Teaching Formats*

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Tarsila Seara

What is your thesis about?

I am conducting a series of surveys and interviews with environmental educators throughout the New England region regarding their opinions of online education. I am hoping to identify the most impactful online teaching strategies that can be used to achieve various environmental learning

objectives.

What motivated and/or inspired you to select this as your research topic?

Through my experiences as an educator in aquariums and museums, I have learned that environmental education has a major focus on hands-on learning, as well as learning experiences that take place within nature. In addition, many environmental educators are apprehensive towards the use of technology in their lessons, as they worry that it will reduce their students' personal connections to the environment. It is my hope that the results of my project will outline strategies that can be used to overcome these complex challenges that educators are currently facing in the midst of the pandemic.

Do you have any advice for future Honors students thinking about writing an Honors Thesis?

It's a great opportunity to conduct research on a topic that you're passionate about! I highly recommend creating a timeline for yourself to stay on track, but also stay flexible as your plans may change over time.

After graduating, what are your plans?

In the fall, I will be pursuing a master's degree in marine science education and outreach. Someday, I hope to become an outreach director for an environmental nonprofit organization, where I can implement public education programs and citizen science initiatives that enhance environmental stewardship and resilience within coastal communities.