

Honors Thesis Requirements Biochemistry Department

Students with 30 credit hours and a GPA of 3.3 may apply to the CAFNR Honors Program. Transfer students must complete at least 15 hours at MU and have a GPA of at least 3.3. The application must be submitted through the Biochemistry Department. Students should bring their CAFNR Honors application, together with a signed copy of these guidelines to Dr. Shari Freyermuth, Director, Undergraduate Advising. All students admitted to the Honors Program are required to complete an Honors Thesis to earn the privilege of graduating with departmental honors. The College requirement is for a written thesis and an oral presentation of the thesis.

For students in the Biochemistry Honors Program, the thesis requirement consists of the following:

1. **Written Thesis:**

A thesis reporting on research the student has conducted in a faculty laboratory. A research-based thesis will be similar in format to a journal article and will include the following sections.

- Title
- Abstract
- Literature review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- References

The literature review should be thorough and more extensive than a typical journal article introduction. Research-based theses are expected to be 10-15 pages exclusive of references. Figures must be prepared to a professional standard.

2. **Presentation**

Students are required to make a formal presentation of their thesis. Normally, a student will present the senior thesis in an oral or poster presentation, either on-campus or at a scientific meeting. If this is not possible, a student may make arrangements to present the senior thesis in the Senior Seminar class (Biochm 4970). Presentation in research group meeting, although a valuable experience, does not satisfy this requirement.

Required timeline for completing the Honors Thesis

By entering the Biochemistry Honors Program, students agree to complete their thesis in a timely and professional manner. The following deadlines have been put in place to ensure timely progress on the thesis during the senior year. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in automatic suspension or dismissal from the Honors Program.

a. Two semesters prior to graduation: The Honors student must submit the thesis topic to the Director of Undergraduate Advising for approval at the beginning of their senior year. Students should consult their Honors Committee Chair or faculty supervisor in selecting a topic.

Due dates: September 1 for May graduation and February 1 for December or August graduation.

b. Mid-term, penultimate semester: The student must submit an outline of their thesis and a well-written draft of the background literature to their Honors Committee Chair or faculty supervisor **NO LATER THAN** the middle of their penultimate semester.

Due dates: November 1 for May graduation, April 1 for December or August graduation.

c. Last Day, penultimate semester: The student must submit revised background literature sections to their Honors Committee Chair or faculty supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Advising.

Target dates are the second Friday in December for May graduation and the second Friday in May for August or December graduation.

d. Mid-term, last semester: The student must submit a draft of the thesis to their Honors Committee Chair or faculty supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Advising **NO LATER THAN** the middle of their last semester. Students should request and receive feedback within two weeks to allow time for corrections to be made before the final submission of the thesis.

Due dates: March 15 for May graduation, July 1 for August graduation, and November 1 for December graduation.

e. Two weeks prior to reading day, last semester: The student must submit the final thesis to their Honors Committee Chair. The Committee Chair or research supervisor must sign the thesis to indicate their approval and send an email verifying acceptance to the Director of Undergraduate Advising.

Due dates: April 25 for May graduation, July 25 for August graduation and November 25 for December graduation.

f. Two weeks in advance of the thesis presentation: The student will notify the Director of Undergraduate Advising in writing and will indicate the type of presentation (oral or poster) and when and where the presentation will occur.

g. One week before reading day: The thesis will be submitted electronically to the Director of Undergraduate Advising for final approval along with a statement indicating when and where the thesis was presented orally. **Theses submitted later than one week before reading day will be rejected.**

h. These policies are designed to ensure progress toward completing the thesis. Failure to meet the deadlines will result in automatic suspension from the Honors Program. Students may be reinstated (or in extreme cases dismissed) from the Program after consultation with the Associate Director or Director of Undergraduate Advising.

Honors Thesis Requirements Biochemistry Department

PRINT Student Name

Expected Graduation Date

PRINT Committee Chair Name
(Research supervisor)

I have completed the CAFNR Honors Program Application:
<https://cafnr.missouri.edu/academics/honors-program.php>

I have read and I understand the Honors Thesis guidelines and timetable.

Student Signature

Date

Committee Chair Signature

Date