

Guidelines for Biochemistry Honors Theses

Thesis guidelines for students

In preparing your honors thesis, please adhere to the following guidelines. You are expected to consult with your faculty mentor in this work. Prepare four copies of your honors thesis for submission to committee members (see reverse for deadline). Be sure to proofread for grammar and spelling errors.

Format

- All text should be double-spaced with the exception of Literature Cited and Figure legends, which are to be single-spaced.
- The left-hand margin should be 1.5 inches, while all other margins should be 1 inch.
- Suggested font is 12 point Times New Roman; an equivalently readable font may be used.
- Page numbers should be centered and 0.5 inches from the bottom of each page. All pages after the Title page but before the first page of the Introduction are lowercase Roman numerals (e.g. i, ii, iii, iv, etc.)
- All headings (DEDICATION, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS) should be fully capitalized and centered at the top of a new page.
- Each Figure and accompanying legend should be placed on a separate page. Place each Figure page (with appropriate page numbers) following the first referral to it in the text.

Sections

- Signature page, including (a) Title, centered in all UPPERCASE letters and (b) Near the bottom of the page, four right-justified signature lines for committee members, with each member's name typed below his/her signature line.
- Title page, including (a) thesis title, (b) student's name, (c) the statement "This thesis was presented to Muhlenberg College in partial fulfillment for Honors in Biochemistry.", (d) Muhlenberg College, and (e) month and year of graduation.
- Acknowledgments
- Abstract (500 words or less)
- Table of Contents
- List of Figure (with page numbers)
- List of Tables (with page numbers)
- Introduction¹
- Materials and Methods²
- Results
- Discussion
- References³

¹ As a guideline, each of the main section of the thesis (Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, and Discussion) should consist of 5-10 pages of typed, double-spaced text, not including Figures and legends. Please consider the use of subheadings within sections as appropriate.

² This should be more detailed than the descriptions published in the primary literature. Be specific as to reagents & equipment used and protocols followed, such that others in your research group may use your thesis as a reference.

³ These should be formatted according to the specifications for *Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC)*, published by ASBMB) or *Biochemistry* (published by ACS).

The honors thesis must be submitted to committee members by April 15. Please note that all committee members should have at least one week to review the thesis before the oral examination. Therefore, depending on seminar scheduling constraints, the thesis due date may need to be adjusted to as early as April 1; students and faculty mentors would be made aware of this at least one month in advance.