

Candidate To be completed by Student

Print First / Last Name	Student ID	Major	Class	BIO GPA

Thesis Title (Tentative)

Thesis Description (If more space is needed please attach additional page)

*Was all research data collected and analyzed at the U of R? Yes No

Data collected from other institutions may be used to support a portion of the thesis; however, all facts and figures reported as results must be generated and analyzed by the candidate and part of the collaboration with the UR faculty who is overseeing the writing of the thesis.

Research Mentor / Proposed Thesis Defense Committee: To be completed by Research Mentor

Print First / Last Name / Title / Department

Please list the names of the faculty you are proposing to serve on this student's defense committee. Senior thesis defense committees consist of three UR faculty members who work within a relevant field of study and are qualified to examine the candidate's thesis. **Typically, the research mentor serves on the committee and will need to provide at least 1 - 2 names of "Teaching Faculty" whom they feel are an appropriate fit and have agreed to serve on the committee.** The candidate will then need to take the form to his/her major advisor for further approval. See 2nd page for more details.

Proposed Committee Member#1

Print First / Last Name / Title / Department

Proposed Committee Member#2

Print First / Last Name/Title/Department

Research Mentor Signature X _____

Major Advisor Approved Committee Member List To be completed by Major Advisor

Please list the names of the approved faculty members who may serve on this candidates defense committee

Approved Committee Member#1

Print First / Last Name

Approved Committee Member#2

Print First / Last Name

Approved Committee Member#3

Print First / Last Name

Major Advisor Signature X _____

The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine

Honors in Research Guidelines

Receiving honors in research recognizes a student for outstanding accomplishments in research. Students majoring in the Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) with research of exceptional quality and a minimum BIO GPA of 2.7 may apply for candidacy during their senior year. Candidates must have developed a novel body of work that includes publication quality data from which to generate a senior thesis. In addition, candidates must successfully present and defend their senior thesis before a faculty examination committee.

Planning of a senior thesis generally begins before or at the beginning of the senior year. Students should consult both their major/track coordinator and research advisor beforehand. Students may use research obtained through Independent Research (395) courses, fellowships, internships, and voluntary work to compose their senior thesis.

Data collected from other institutions outside of the university may be used to support a portion of the thesis; "however, all facts and figures reported as results in the thesis must be derived by the candidate, and must be part of the collaboration with their research mentor or a member of the UR ["Teaching Faculty"](#) who is overseeing the writing of student's thesis.

A defense committee for a senior thesis consists of three UR faculty members who work within a relevant field of study and are qualified to examine the candidate's thesis. Typically, the research mentor serves on the committee and will need to provide at least 1 - 2 names of ["Teaching Faculty"](#) whom they feel are an appropriate fit and would be willing to serve on the committee. These recommendations should be included on the application for candidacy. All recommendations require the review and approval of the candidate's major advisor.

All interested must submit an [application for candidacy](#) to the UPBM office (Hutchison 488) with the endorsing signatures of **both** their research mentor and major/track coordinator by **the First Monday in March of their senior year**. Students enrolled in Take-5 programs at the UR may choose to defend in their fifth year.

Once the major advisor has approved the committee names the candidates will need to invite the faculty to serve and coordinate a mutually agreeable date, time, and location for the defense. The thesis defenses must be completed and the results communicated to the UPBM office in writing by the **end of the first week in May**.

It is suggested that candidates have their committees in place, a date coordinated, and a room reserved by **mid April** as scheduling becomes increasingly difficult towards the end of the semester.

Senior thesis papers should be a minimum of 20 pages in length and written as a scientific paper using supporting text, diagrams, figures, and properly noted references. Candidates must provide copies of their thesis to each of their committee members and the [UPBM office](#) at least one week in advance of their thesis defense. Please note that failure to comply may result in the cancellation of the defense.

Students should prepare a 20-minute presentation and should be prepared to answer questions during an oral examination. If the committee agrees, the seminar may be open to guests; however, the oral examination will be closed. The candidate will be given an evaluation sheet to give to the defense committee who will communicate the results on the day of.

Upon successful completion "Honors in Research" will be noted on transcripts and a certificate awarded at the student's diploma ceremony.

Please note that students do not need to register an Independent Research (395) course if they intend to defend a senior thesis unless necessary to complete experimentation.

Please contact the [UPBM Administrator](#) with questions.