

External Supervision of Bachelor of Science (Honours) Candidates at Acadia University in the Biology Department

Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to help clarify the role of external supervisors in BIOL 4996 Honours Thesis, and to outline basic requirements of Acadia's Honours Program. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the student's internal supervisor or the Honours Coordinator, identified below.

Honours Program Overview

Acadia's Honours program is a rigorous, research-based program. Detailed information on the program can be found on the [Biology website](#). Integral to the Honours program is the Honours Thesis course (BIOL 4996). It is an eight-month course, however, most students begin May 1st and work over the summer to become conversant with a particular field of research and to actively engage in research. Data collection may be ongoing and continue into the academic year.

Student Research Program - Requirements

To fulfill Acadia University's degree/course requirements, Honours candidates must be active participants in the research program; they are not to be treated as technicians. Additionally, sufficient data must be available to the student for the production and publication of a thesis. The Honours program includes a committee meeting in the fall, a public presentation in April through the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science ("Impact"), writing a thesis, and subsequently defending that thesis in March. Acadia University also requires that the finished thesis be made freely available to the public online through [Acadia Scholar](#) on the Vaughan Memorial Library website.

Intellectual Property Ownership & Publications

All Honours students will normally retain copyright of their thesis, as well as ownership in the data set produced during the research. Recognizing that students working in industry may work with proprietary material, before a student decides to pursue Honours research off-campus, all involved in the research should discuss intellectual property ownership, confidentiality obligations and publication expectations. Position of authorship for a student will depend on how much work they do towards producing the manuscript and will be decided in consultation with the external and internal supervisors.

Role of External Supervisors

The expected role of the external supervisor includes thesis and research supervision and guidance through development of the student project (with some independence and intellectual input from the student). We also ask the supervisor to ensure that the student receives all training necessary prior to initiating the research program.

External supervisors may also be asked to participate in committee meetings and the thesis defence. External supervisors are asked to consult regularly with both the student and the

internal supervisor, and particularly, meet at the beginning of the project to establish common goals.

If these above terms and guidelines are acceptable, please indicate your acceptance by signing below. Many thanks for agreeing to participate in the Honours Program.

_____	_____	_____
Student name	Student signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
External supervisor name	External supervisor signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Internal supervisor name	Internal supervisor signature	Date

Note: Students are required to provide their external supervisor with a current copy of the BIOL 4996 Honours Thesis syllabus. Also, students should provide contact information for their external supervisor to the Honours Coordinator.

Honours Coordinator: Dr Russell Easy (russell.easy@acadiu.ca)