

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 the Honours Thesis course, 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 identified below or the Honours Coordinator.

Honours Program Overview

Acadia's Honours program is a rigorous, research-based program. Detailed information on the program can be found at: <http://biology.acadiau.ca/honours-program.html>. 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 an oral comprehensive exam in the fall, a public presentation in February ("Biofeedback"), 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 the Vaughan Memorial Library (<http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/>).

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 comprehensive exams 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.

Honours Coordinator: Dr Dave Shutler (dave.shutler@acadiu.ca)