

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WHEN WRITING YOUR MA IN MEDICAL SCIENCES THESIS

HONORS THESES

How do you submit your thesis for honors recognition?

A letter must be written by your primary mentor from the lab –this may be your first or second reader. Not all students are recommended for honors. Any mentor who feels the student has performed well while working in the lab, writing up the document and contributing to the overall work of the research group is eligible for honors recognition. This recommendation is independent of the success of the thesis project. Some students, who work 6-12 months in a lab and do not complete a project or generate data for publication due to issues beyond their control, are still eligible if the mentor feels the quality of their work is worthy of honors.

The honors request letter should be brief - about a paragraph. It should be addressed to Dr. Franzblau but given to the Registrar when you submit the final thesis – a template is shown below for mentors not from BU who requests more guidance.

*Dr. Carl Franzblau
Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Sciences
Chairman, Department of Biochemistry*

Please consider so and so's thesis entitled "#####" for honors credit. He/She worked in my lab and did a superb job evaluating ###. I feel that his/her thesis is of honors quality because.....

Some letters are very brief and others are lengthier remarking on the work ethic, research accomplished, exciting conclusions, and the overall contribution of the student. A letter of any length which includes the basic request is acceptable.

What is the review process for an honors thesis?

Once the final thesis is submitted including a letter from the primary mentor recommending the thesis for honors credit, the thesis will go to a review committee for approval. This process includes at least two faculty members. When reviewed, the student will get a letter confirming honors credit. This process usually takes 4-6 weeks after your thesis is submitted and your transcript will not be updated till the end of the current semester / graduation.

I have applied to school and am on the waitlist is there any way to have my honors grade added to my transcript more quickly than 4-6 weeks?

No, the thesis must be accepted and approved by Mugar Memorial Library on BU's Charles River Campus before the registrar can update and finalize your transcript.