

MASTER'S THESIS

Advisors, since they will spend the most time with you as faculty, will ultimately be a Good source for a letter of recommendation. Insightful letters of recommendation written by a faculty, who knows you well, are an important aspect of the admissions process to medical or graduate school. A second reader is also required and your advisor can help recommend one.

If you have an opportunity for research outside this institution and that outside mentor will permit you to use the work as a thesis, please be aware that you also will need to obtain a Division faculty first reader. Your outside mentor may serve as a second reader once a Special Service Appointment for that mentor has been submitted and approved by the Division Office (Attn: Susan Wilcox). Special Service Appointment forms may be obtained from the Division Office. The Special Service Appointment form provides temporary faculty appointment for qualified mentors. The function of the "in-house" Division faculty member assures and assumes responsibility that the work is conducted appropriately.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THESIS

A thesis project is to be well-conceived and modest scope. The research project may involve library research alone, a laboratory research project or a combination of library and laboratory research. Although, modest in scope, the project represents the culmination of your graduate work in the program and should represent a body of work beyond that required for a course term paper. Since the page length requirement is variable depending on the type of thesis, the following guidelines should be noted and observed.

LIBRARY THESIS

A Library thesis should be approximately 50 but not less than 45 pages, including references. It should not be a collection of abstracts on a particular scientific area; rather, it should provide you the opportunity to evaluate information so that you may be able to develop an original conclusion. One of the better ways to do this is to select a research; health-related and/or basic scientific topic that is under active consideration in the research community. Provide data on both sides of the issue(s). Evaluate it, and come to an original conclusion based on the stand you wish to take.

Library thesis are graded on a pass/fail basis.

LABORATORY RESEARCH THESIS

A laboratory thesis may be made by arrangement with the director of laboratory and should cover the number of hours weekly and the length of time that the project is expected to take. Both lab director and student agree to the terms. To avoid further misunderstandings by either party, a written agreement is suggested but is not mandatory. It is expedient to prepare an outline of this topic with your advisor and plan out meeting times on a regular schedule. The final written thesis may be submitted, if desired in publication format or conventional format and must be a minimum of 35 pages. Laboratory thesis may earn an Honors Grade (A) when the research mentor decides that the students contribution and quality of work performed is deserving of an Honors grade

Please remember that admission to Boston University School of Medicine is contingent upon successful completion of the thesis and it's acceptance by the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences no later than August 1st of the year of your acceptance. No exceptions can be allowed.