



Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Master's Thesis and Defence

Overview

Unlike the doctoral final oral exams an MSc defence is run according to departmental guidelines. However you should follow the standard layout and advice as described on the [Faculty of Graduate Studies website when writing your thesis](#).

You should also ensure that you follow British Columbia's rules regarding intellectual property. In particular you should bear in mind policy SC6 which replace policy #85: Scholarly Integrity. An excerpt is listed below:

"A factor in many cases of alleged scholarly/scientific misconduct has been the absence of a complete set of verifiable data. The retention by the University of accurately recorded and retrievable results is of utmost importance. Wherever possible, all primary data should be recorded in clear, adequate, original and chronological form. In scientific departments, a record of the primary data must be maintained in the laboratory and cannot be removed. Original data for a given study should be retained in the unit of origin for at least five years after the work is published or otherwise presented (if the form of the data permits this, and if assurances have not been given that data would be destroyed to assure anonymity). Supervisors and collaborators should have unrestricted access to all data and products of their collaborative research. Entitlement to ownership of primary data, software, and other products of research can vary according to the circumstances under which research is conducted. A shared understanding about ownership should be reached among collaborators, especially between supervisors and their graduate students, before research is undertaken."

Checklists and Guidelines

Before the Defence

- Meet with your supervisory committee by December 1st of your second year to review your progress and to receive permission to continue with your research
- Continue with your work
- [Check the current calendar for thesis submission deadlines for November and May graduations](#)
- Hold a second committee meeting to receive approval from your supervisory committee to write up your thesis
- Prepare your thesis according to the guidelines as specified in the [Faculty of Graduate Studies website](#)
- Submit a copy of your thesis to each examiner at least three weeks before the date of your defence
- Your examining committee will comprise of your supervisory committee and one additional member (may be but need not be departmental) as chosen by your supervisor
- The additional exam committee member needs to be approved by the Graduate Advisor

- Your supervisor will fill out the [Approval of Examinations Committee Members for a Master's Defence](#) form and submit it to the Advisor prior to the scheduling of the MSc Defence
- Your supervisor is the Exam Chair Person
- You are responsible for arranging the thesis defence date with your examining committee
- Once the date is set the Graduate Coordinator will book a room
- You must also remember to [apply to graduate](#), even if you will not be attending the convocation ceremony

During the Defence

- You will make a 20 to 30 minute oral presentation of your research
- This will be followed by a question and answer session
- Unlike final PhD oral defences, MSc defences are **NOT** public

After the Defence

- Your examining committee will [submit a pass/fail grade to the graduate secretary](#) along with an evaluation of your performance
- You must complete all recommended revisions and obtain committee signatures for the required [thesis forms](#) prior to submitting your thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- After Graduate Studies accept your thesis, you will need to provide 3 loose copies of your thesis to the graduate secretary for hard cover binding. Once bound the copies will be distributed to the supervisor, student and BIOC.