

Guidelines and Recommendations for an Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Biological Engineering

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Overview

An Undergraduate Honors Thesis is required of graduating seniors in order to graduate *magna cum laude* (high honors) or *summa cum laude* (highest honors). The GPA thresholds for these honors designations are 3.50 and 3.80, respectively, and refer to the GPA beginning after the semester after accumulating 60 credits. In general, the honors thesis requires the completion of an approved research project or creative work.*

The Undergraduate Honors Thesis defense requires a presentation by the graduating student to three faculty‡, who will evaluate the quality of the honors thesis. Furthermore, it is an examination of the student's skills and training acquired through the experience that is the basis for the honors thesis. The signature of approval by all three is required for the student to receive the honors designation sought.

Please note that if no honors thesis is completed, the student having acquired a 3.50 or 3.80 GPA, will still graduate with *cum laude* honors (minimum of 3.30 after accumulating 60 credits).

Honors Thesis Considerations**

There are several experiences that can be used for an Undergraduate Honors Thesis. This list is meant to provide some general guidelines and is not exhaustive.

- Summer internship experience
- Semester-long research activity
- Co-op experience
- Other creative activity approved by honors thesis chair

*UF Catalog for Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

‡ Must include at least two faculty from the ABE Department and one from outside the ABE Department. This individual can also be from industry (i.e. does not have to be a UF faculty member).

**BE Design 1 and 2 team efforts are not suitable

Deadlines

The student must identify their honors thesis committee by the midpoint of the semester of the graduation term. The student must schedule the oral defense with committee members no later than one week before the end of the semester. Review procedures and complete all necessary forms found here: <https://abe.ufl.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-resources/>.

Defense Documents

The student's honors thesis must include

1. A written thesis submitted to the honors thesis committee no later than 7 day prior to the oral defense. The honors thesis should include
 - A title page identifying the thesis title, presenting student, thesis committee members, and the oral defense date.
 - 250 work abstract (maximum)
 - A main text with a minimum of 5 written pages
 - The abstract and title page are not included in this count
 - Rerences at the end of the thesis are not in this page count
 - Appendices are not included in this page count
 - The main text should have margins no smaller than 1 inch
 - The main text should use a font size of 12 points
 - The main text should use a spacing of 1.5 lines (no double of single space)
 - A bibliography as necessary
 - Appendices are not required, but may be used, however, the thesis committee is not required to read the appendices
 - Do not include critical figures in the appendices
2. An oral presentation and defense to a committee of 3 faculty‡
 - The student should prepare a 10 to 15 minute presentation of the honors thesis
 - The student should be prepared for another 10 to 15 minutes of questions and answers.

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Date: June 25, 2018