

## DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

### Guidelines

A degree with distinction in research is an honor that recognizes a student for outstanding accomplishments in research. Students majoring in the Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) with research of exceptional quality and a minimum BIO GPA of 2.7 may apply for candidacy during their senior year. Candidates must have developed a novel body of work that includes publication quality data from which to generate a senior thesis. In addition, candidates must successfully present and defend their senior thesis before a faculty examination committee.

Planning of a senior thesis generally begins before or at the beginning of the senior year. Students should consult both their major/track coordinator and research advisor beforehand. Students may use research obtained through Independent Research (395) courses, fellowships, internships, and voluntary work to compose their senior thesis. Research performed at other institutions may be used as long as the thesis is written under the supervision of a U of R full-time faculty member.

Interested students must submit an [application for candidacy](#) to the UPBM office (Hutchison 402F) with the endorsing signatures of both their research mentor and major/track coordinator by, **Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**. Please note that students do not need to register an Independent Research (395) course to do a senior thesis unless necessary to complete experimentation.

The candidate's major/track coordinator will work with the research advisor to form an examination committee. An examination committee usually consists of three faculty members: the major/track coordinator or designated appointee, the research advisor, and a third faculty member within a relevant area of study. The UPBM Administrator will notify candidates with the names of faculty who will serve on their examination committee during the week of March 26th.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to contact the examination committee members to schedule a date and time for the defense. Candidates should initiate this process as soon as the examination committee is formed as it may be difficult to coordinate a mutual date, time and conference room by **Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. Final arrangements should also be communicated to the UPBM office by 4/13/12.

Senior thesis papers should be a minimum of 20 pages in length and written as a scientific paper using supporting text, diagrams, figures, and properly noted references. Candidates must provide copies of their thesis to each of their committee members and the [UPBM office](#) at least one week in advance of their thesis defense. Please note that failure to comply may result in the cancellation of the defense.

Students should prepare a 20-minute presentation and should be prepared to answer questions during an oral examination. If the committee agrees, the seminar may be open to guests; however, the oral examination will be closed.

The thesis defenses must be completed and the results communicated to the UPBM office in writing by the end of the first week in May, **Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. Upon successful completion Distinction in Research will be noted on transcripts and a certificate awarded at the student's diploma ceremony. Please contact the [UPBM Administrator](#) with questions.

### Related Links:

- \* [Timeline for Planning a Senior Thesis](#)
- \* [Downloadable Application](#)
- \* [Research Page](#)
- \* [UPBM Home](#)