

MS Thesis Summary Report

Student instructions:

- 1) Answer the questions listed in the 'Student' section of the report
- 2) Provide your answers to your committee chair
- 3) Request that your committee chair complete the 'Committee Chair' section of the report
- 4) Send the completed report in one email to your MS committee members with bioms@ucsd.edu copied on the email *6 weeks before* your defense.

FAQs

- 1) **Can I send the report less than 6 weeks before my defense?**
 - a. Yes, you can send the summary less than 6 weeks before your defense. It is important that you communicate your timeline with your committee. If you cannot send this 6 weeks before your defense, let your committee know when they can expect your summary as well as a draft of your thesis.
- 2) **Does my committee need a copy of my thesis in addition to this summary?**
 - a. Yes! You cannot complete your MS degree until you complete a MS thesis and your committee confirms that your thesis meets the requirements for the Biology MS degree. Your committee cannot approve your thesis until they are able to read your thesis. Note, it is possible your committee will request edits to your thesis, so it is extremely important that you send your committee a draft of your thesis as soon as possible.
- 3) **When do I send my thesis to my committee?**
 - a. When you have a near final draft of your thesis. Aim to send your thesis 1-2 weeks before your defense so your committee has time to review your thesis and prepare for your defense. Be sure to communicate with your committee about when you will provide a thesis draft. Some faculty may want more time to review your thesis before your defense. Be prepared to accommodate your committee.
- 4) **I've never seen the email 'bioms@ucsd.edu,' is this a legitimate email?**
 - a. Yes! While this email cannot be used for advising purposes, I use this email to collect thesis summaries.
- 5) **Will I get a response confirming that the BS/MS Coordinator received the summary?**
 - a. No, you will not receive a response from bioms@ucsd.edu. However, you receive a notification through the VAC one week before the defense date listed in this summary. If your defense date changes after you submit the summary, send a message through the VAC to confirm your defense date.

Additional questions? Send me a message through the VAC!

**Division of Biological Sciences
Brief Summary of MS Research**

To be completed by the *Student*:

*Your responses should be typed. Wherever necessary, please feel free to exceed the space provided under each section.

This report should be sent electronically to all committee members at least six weeks prior to the Master's thesis defense.

Student's name:

Committee members:

Proposed title of the thesis:

Estimated defense date:

Attach a summary of the most significant findings of your research. Include 1-2 key figures (no more than two pages, including the figures). *Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety measures students graduating in Spring 2020 or later may provide a summary of their literature review completed in lieu of a thesis project. Students must consult with their thesis advisor and committee members to determine if a literature review is appropriate.*

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

To be completed by the *Committee Chair*:

Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety measures, students graduating in Spring 2020 or later have two options for their MS thesis. Depending on the student's ability to complete their research while social distancing measures are in place, students may write their thesis meeting the old thesis requirements, or they may complete their thesis using the updated requirements.

Option 1:

Successfully defending a thesis requires that the student has obtained sufficient data to make **a significant contribution to a research paper** that will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Such contribution could consist of one or more of the following:

- The student produces at least one figure or a table that could be included in a peer-reviewed research paper.
- The student's work lays a significant foundation for further research (for example, the student conducted a genetic screen).
- The student develops a new technique or improves an existing method, producing a significant, applicable technical advance.

Option 2:

Students can graduate even if they did not complete the experiments they were planning to complete in Spring 2020 or later, provided that they completed all required coursework. In lieu of completing their experiments and obtaining sufficient data to make a significant contribution to a research paper, students will be expected to write a thorough literature background in the Introduction of their thesis. The students are still expected to write and defend their thesis (via Zoom, if restriction on travel are still imposed at the time of the defense).

