

BME Master's Thesis

A Master's Thesis allows a student to include extensive research experience as part of his/her graduate program. It is designed for students who plan a career in teaching, industrial research or possibly continuing in the Ph.D. program.

If a Master's student plans to count four (4) or more credits of directed research toward their M.S. degree in BME, they must write a Master's Thesis. The student will need to find an advisor who will supervise the thesis research, and then register for BIOMED E 590 under the advisor's section number. The student can count up to six (6) credits of BIOMED E 590 towards the M.S. degree. The student prepares a formal thesis proposal acceptable to the advisor and his/her Master Thesis Committee consisting of at least 2 BME faculty members (a BME faculty member is defined as having an Affiliate, Associate, or Core appointment in the BME Department), including the student's Research Advisor. The student must prepare a written Master's Thesis, approved by the Master's Thesis Committee, and defend the thesis before the Master's Thesis Committee in a public examination. Refer to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies for [thesis formatting requirements](#), which are the same as for a Ph.D. Thesis. For a Ph.D. student obtaining a M.S. degree before advancing to Ph.D. candidacy, the BME qualifying exam, which requires a thesis proposal and oral defense, will satisfy the M.S. thesis and oral defense criteria. The qualifying exam is conducted in a private setting before the Ph.D. Thesis Committee consisting of at least four committee members. Refer to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies for Ph.D. Thesis Committee requirements.

At least two weeks before the Master's Thesis defense, the student must email the following information to the BME Department* so that it can be forwarded to the BME community: defense title, abstract, date, time, location and chair.

No later than the last day of class in which the student expects to graduate, the Chair of the Master's Thesis Committee must submit a memo to the BME Department which states that the student has successfully written and defended his/her thesis. The student must also submit a copy of his/her Master's Thesis to the BME Department.

If a student would like to complete a Master's Thesis with a faculty member with no appointment in BME, the student will need to have a BME core faculty member serve as the surrogate. An email message from the BME core faculty member which states that he/she will serve as the faculty surrogate is required.

* Susan Graeber (SUGS), Maria Steele (M.S., Ph.D.)