

## MCB Honors Thesis Guide

### **What is MCB 194H?**

MCB 194H is a continuation of an intensive, individual laboratory research project in biochemistry, genetics, or cell biology that culminates with this course. Students get to present their work in a written thesis and are required to showcase it by doing a presentation. The presentation requirement may be fulfilled by participating in the Undergraduate Research Conference held each April.

### **Who can do an MCB honors thesis?**

Students who have senior standing (135 or more units completed) with an overall GPA of 3.250+ can pursue the honors thesis. Students must ensure they complete 6 units of Research (199) or advanced research (193) coursework before registering for the MCB 194H honors thesis course.

### **I do not meet the overall GPA requirement; can I still do an MCB honors thesis?**

A student cannot pursue an MCB honors thesis if they do not meet the GPA requirement, however our department does have the option for students to pursue the MCB research thesis. The MCB research thesis does not have a GPA requirement. Please meet with a BASC advisor to learn more about the MCB research thesis and discuss your GPA.

### **Do the 6 units of research coursework *need* to be MCB 199 or MCB 193?**

No. Students are allowed to do research in any lab on campus and receive 199 or 193 units from other departments to fulfill this requirement as long as their research is related to their field of study.

### **I will be doing research and receiving 199 units from a lab outside of the MCB department, is there a form I need to fill out to get this approved?**

Although there is no official “form” for approval to do research in other labs that are not a part of MCB, students should check-in with their master advisor. Students should discuss their research with their master advisor to ensure the work is appropriate for the MCB honors or research thesis and that it’s related to your field of study.

### **What is the difference between MCB honors thesis and UHP honors thesis?**

MCB honors thesis is coordinated with your major's Master Advisor and your thesis advisor. In this way, it's more intimate and you get two faculty who learn about you, your work and can evaluate it.

### **I am in the University Honors Program, can the MCB honors thesis or MCB Research thesis fulfill my Signature Work requirement?**

Yes. MCB honors thesis or research thesis fulfills UHP students' Signature Work requirement. You can find more information here <https://honors.ucdavis.edu/year-4-signature-work>

### **Who is the Master Advisor for my major?**

Master Advisors can be found on the BASC website <https://basc.biology.ucdavis.edu/about-us#acad> for each major.

### **After completing the MCB honors thesis, will I graduate with honors from CBS?**

No. Graduating with honors, high honors or highest honors from CBS is based solely on a student's GPA. More information on Graduation Honors can be found here <https://ucdavis.pubs.curricunet.com/Catalog/academic-information> (scroll down to Honors and Prizes Section)

*Please see page 3 for a flow chart that will guide you on how to prepare for the MCB honors thesis*

