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 majors faculty advisor. Students should discuss their research with their major faculty advisor to ensure the work is appropriate for the MCB honors or research thesis and that it’s related to their field of study.
What is the difference between MCB honors thesis and UHP honors thesis?

MCB honors thesis is coordinated with your major’s faculty 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 faculty advisor for my major?

Faculty 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.

Please see page 3 for a flow chart that will guide you on how to prepare for the MCB honors thesis.
Have you met with a BASC advisor to learn about the MCB honors thesis and make sure you meet the requirements?

Please meet with a BASC advisor to learn more about the MCB honors thesis, its requirements and answer any questions you may have. You can also read through the FAQ's included in this document.

Are you currently doing work in a lab on campus?

You want to get involved in a lab on campus where you can do research on a subject related to your field of study and ensure that the professor of the Lab provides you 6 Research Units (199 or 193) for your work. Don’t know how to get involved in a research lab? Meet with a BASC advisor for guidance!

Can you receive 6 research units (199 or 193) from your current lab?

You will need a “thesis sponsor” this is a faculty who will oversee your research and help you with your thesis (provide feedback on your paper & findings, etc). A student’s “thesis sponsor” is the professor whose lab you are working in and receiving research units from.

Are you a part of the University Honors Program (UHP)?

An MCB honors thesis and research thesis does fulfill the UHP signature work requirement. The difference between a UHP thesis and MCB thesis is that the MCB thesis gives a student the opportunity to work closely with two different faculty members and build that closer connection with a MCB faculty!

Throughout your time in the MCB 194H course you will work on your thesis with the guidance of your thesis sponsor and faculty advisor. In addition to writing your paper, you are required to present your work during this quarter as part of completing an MCB thesis.

You are to enroll in the MCB194H course during the last quarter of your senior year. Please meet with your majors faculty advisor prior to the start of your last quarter to discuss how to register for MCB 194H and establish expectations, discuss deadlines, how you will communicate, etc.

You are encouraged to now meet with your majors faculty advisor and share with them you’re pursuing the MCB thesis. You can share your research topic, the lab you are conducting research in, etc. Your majors faculty advisor will walk you through the MCB thesis components. You can find your majors faculty advisor here https://basc.biology.ucdavis.edu/abo ut-us/#acad & reach out to them via email.