

The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Guidelines for the Master of Science Defense

The purpose of the defense is to facilitate a thorough evaluation of the thesis and the student's understanding of the research, as well as the student's ability to report information to the scientific community in a well-organized and interesting form.

The defense consists of two parts: a public seminar and an examination. In the public seminar, the student will deliver a 45 to 60 minute public presentation, including a detailed description of the background, rationale, materials and methods, results and conclusions appropriate to the research. Following the presentation, the student will respond to questions from the audience.

Immediately thereafter, and at a location announced at the end of the seminar, the Advisory Committee will examine the student on the thesis. Any member of the GSBS Faculty who attends the public presentation may participate in the examination to the extent described below. Others wishing to attend must be approved by the Advisory Committee.

The student's Advisor will serve as moderator of the examination. The student will be expected to respond to questions from those attending on any aspect of the written thesis or the material presented at the seminar.

After the defense, the student will meet privately with the Advisory Committee to discuss the results. Finally, the Advisory Committee (in executive session, if desired) will determine what recommendation to make to the Dean and the ASC.

The Committee may conclude that the student has passed, or it may require additional research, modifications to the thesis, and/or another defense.

Following the defense, the results of this meeting will be communicated through the Office of Academic Affairs to the Dean and the Academic Standards Committee for their information and approval.

Within one week of the defense, any GSBS faculty member who has read the student's thesis and has attended the defense may write directly to the Dean to provide an evaluation of the student's performance. In reaching a final decision on whether to award the M.S. or require further work and/or another defense, the Dean will take into consideration the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and other comments received from GSBS Faculty. In particular cases, the Dean may solicit additional evaluations of the thesis from experts in the field either within or outside the GSBS Faculty.

The decision of the Dean will be communicated to the student and the Supervisory Committee within one month of the defense.

**The University of Texas
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston**

Results of the Defense of the M.S. Thesis

This form is to be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs within two weeks after the M.S. defense.

We, the undersigned, as the Advisory Committee in charge of the Defense of the M.S. Thesis for

_____ (student's name),

report that we have examined the candidate on his/her thesis research on _____ (date).

We recommend that the candidate be granted the Master of Science degree. If the Committee has attached any conditions to the recommendation, e.g., requiring that the thesis be rewritten, the signing of the thesis by the Committee members indicates the conditions have been met.

The Advisory Committee is satisfied with the evaluation of the student's thesis by Turnitin.

The Advisory Committee agrees that the candidate understands and has acted appropriately on ethical issues related to the thesis project.

The Advisory Committee attests that the student contributed substantially to the text of any previously published work incorporated into the thesis.

The Advisory Committee attests that any figure taken from the student's publication(s) and used in the thesis is the result of work done by the student him/herself.

We do not recommend that the candidate be granted the Master of Science degree at this time. [Please attach a letter to indicate the reason(s) for this decision.]

(Please type each committee member's name and degree(s) under signature line.)

Chair, Advisory Committee

**The University of Texas
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston**

Selection of Areas of Research Concentration for GSBS M.S. Diplomas

GSBS students may elect, with the approval of their Advisory Committee and the Program Directors, to have none, one, or two Areas of Research Concentration (ARC) displayed on their diploma. If any ARC is displayed, the first one must be Biomedical Sciences, and no Program Director approval is needed. For a student who was admitted into the Ph.D. program, but who is receiving a terminal M.S., this ARC may correspond to the student's Program. If the Ph.D. student is proceeding to completion of the Ph.D. degree after completion of the M.S., the student must indicate Biomedical Sciences as the primary ARC. If S.M.S students elect to include an ARC, they must place Medical Physics or Genetic Counseling as their primary ARC, and obtain Program Director approval. Inclusion of a second ARC requires Program Director approval.

I wish to include zero, one or two ARCs on my diploma.

Indicate 1 st ARC:	Indicate 2 nd ARC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Biomedical Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry (obtain approval from BMB)
<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Physics	<input type="checkbox"/> Biomathematics, Biostatistics and Systems Biology
<input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Biology
<input type="checkbox"/> Biomathematics, Biostatistics and Systems Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Biology (obtain approval from CRB)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell and Regulatory Biology
<input type="checkbox"/> Cell and Regulatory Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical and Translational Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical and Translational Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Experimental Therapeutics
<input type="checkbox"/> Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis	<input type="checkbox"/> Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis
<input type="checkbox"/> Experimental Therapeutics	<input type="checkbox"/> Genes and Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Genes and Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Human and Molecular Genetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Human and Molecular Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Immunology
<input type="checkbox"/> Immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Microbiology and Molecular Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Molecular Biology (obtain approval from BMB)
<input type="checkbox"/> Neuroscience	<input type="checkbox"/> Neuroscience
<input type="checkbox"/> Virology and Gene Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacology (obtain approval from ET)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Physiology (obtain approval from CRB)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Virology and Gene Therapy

We, the undersigned, as the Advisory Committee in charge of the Defense for _____
approve of the above listed selection of ARC(s) to be placed on this student's GSBS diploma.

Chair, Advisory Committee

The signature(s) of the Program Director(s) is/are required in order to list Program ARCs on the diploma. Approval is denoted by their signatures.

Program Director, Printed name and signature

Program Director, Printed name and signature