

Biomedical Engineering MASc Thesis Proposal Guidelines

A thesis proposal serves multiple purposes, specifically to ensure that:

- MASc students have the appropriate academic background – a foundation and breadth of knowledge in the field of study– to be successful in their MASc program
- MASc students have the capacity to engage in scholarly communications – both oral and written – necessary to be successful in their MASc studies
- MASc students have made reasonable progress towards completion of their degree and have developed a novel and viable research plan in Biomedical Engineering to pursue in their MASc studies

The thesis proposal will be the Advisory Committee. The committee will be comprised of:

- Supervisor or co-supervisors (at least one must be a BME graduate faculty member)
- Internal member (BME graduate faculty member)
- Internal-external member (not a BME graduate faculty member)

It is expected that the committee will also serve as the committee of the student's final thesis and defence. This is the student's Advisory Committee.

Each MASc candidate must prepare a Thesis Proposal by the end of their third term. It is suggested that the written proposal should include:

- Title page
- Table of contents
- Abstract
- Introduction / literature review
- Thesis specific objectives / hypothesis
- Proposed methods and materials
- Progress/results to date
- Timeline
- List of references

The body of written text should not exceed 15 pages excluding the table of contents, list of references and appendices.

Students are required to orally defend their proposal, which includes presenting their proposal and answering questions from the committee to assess their understanding of the proposed research area. If agreed by the committee, the student can present their oral defence during the BME seminar series given that all committee members will be present during the presentation.

It is expected that the proposal presentation will be 15 to 20 minutes followed by one round of questions from the committee. The expected total length is approximately one hour.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the Report of MASc Thesis Proposal is completed and signed by all committee members and submitted to the Academic Services Coordinator – BME Grad.

The Report of MASc Thesis Proposal is a record of the committees' examination decision in two weeks after submitting the written proposal to the committee. The Advisory Committee must choose from one of the following four decisions:

- Category 1 - Passed
- Category 2 - Passed subject to completion of conditions
- Category 3 - Re-examination required

Students, who receive a Category 3 (re-examination required) from their thesis proposal defence, will be required to meet the conditions listed on the Report of MASc Thesis Proposal and defend their revised thesis proposal no earlier than six weeks after, but within three months of their unsuccessful attempt. A student cannot fail on their first attempt.

When a candidate is re-examined, the outcomes are limited to:

- Category 1 - Passed
- Category 4 - Exam unsuccessful/failed

Students who receive a category 4 (Exam unsuccessful/failed) will be required to withdraw from the MASc program in the term immediately following the term in which the examination took place.