**Senior Thesis Guidelines**

The Senior Thesis in Neuroscience is an opportunity for students to engage in a faculty-mentored research project that is designed in consultation with a faculty mentor. Intended to engage our most ambitious students, the Senior Thesis is among the most stimulating intellectual enterprises available to undergraduates, demanding dedication and the ability to exercise independent judgment.

Successful completion of the Senior Thesis may lead to graduation with honors, for which students must complete a year long project, generate a written dissertation, and defend the thesis in front of a faculty committee. A grade of B+ or better each semester also is required to graduate with Honors.

**Application Guidelines**

- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 is required for students to conduct a Senior Thesis.
- Please complete the attached application for Senior Thesis, in consultation with the faculty project advisor. You may work with any faculty member who is conducting neuroscience research anywhere throughout the BU community (Charles River Campus or BU Medical Campus). You also may work with any of the dozens of approved neuroscience researchers working throughout the Boston Area (including Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Maclean Hospital, and Harvard Medical School).
- You must include the materials listed below in your Senior Thesis application.
- Your project/thesis advisor must complete the reference sheet, which is an evaluation of your potential success in the project. After the application is signed by both you and your project advisor, you must submit all materials to the Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience for Director approval. Once approved, you will be registered for CAS NE 401 directly by the program office.

**Deadline:** By the first week of the Add/Drop period during your senior year.

**Other Important Information**

**Phi Beta Kappa:**
- Successful completion of a Senior Thesis with a grade of A- each semester is one criterion for nomination to Phi Beta Kappa.

**Part-time:**
- A student may still conduct a Senior Thesis if part-time status has been approved by CAS.

**UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program):**
- Students performing a Senior Thesis may apply for **supplies funds from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP - FROG award)** to supplement the costs of their research supplies. However, a student engaged in his/her Senior Thesis (for academic credit) may not receive a stipend grant (FMG or SRA) from UROP.
- Students performing a Senior Thesis may apply for UROP funding for a supplies grant (FROG) to supplement the costs of their research supplies. However, a student engaged in his/her Senior Thesis (for academic credit) may not receive a stipend grant (FMG or SRA) from UROP.
- For information about academic year and summer funding opportunities from UROP, please visit the UROP website at www.bu.edu/urop
- You may also contact the UROP staff at urop@bu.edu or 617-353-2020

**Application Check List:**

Please include the following materials in your application.

- A brief description of your project. Outline the significance of the proposed work, the method of investigation you will employ, and how your results will be analyzed.
- Include a bibliography of readings that are relevant to your work.
- Explain how this project fits in with your academic and career goals.
- Attach an unofficial copy of your BU transcript.
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE FACULTY PROJECT ADVISOR:

Student’s name:

How long and in what capacity have you known the student?

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Faculty Project Advisor ____________________________ Date:

Faculty Project Advisor ____________________________ Date:

Student ____________________________ Date:

Student ____________________________ Date:

Program Director ____________________________ Date:

Program Director ____________________________ Date: