

**Essay Requirement (BMS7999) for MS in BMS Degree.**

The Masters of Science in Basic Medical Sciences degree requires that BMS candidates (students whose PLAN of WORK was approved by the BMS Program Director & Graduate Officer) must satisfactorily register and complete the Essay in Basic Medical Science course (BMS 7999, offered each term, three credits) by submission of an Essay on a specific and currently relevant biomedical science topic that satisfies all requirements detailed below.

The BMS Master's Essay is: not a report of research for which research credits and a grade were obtained (BMS7880, BMS7996, or equivalent), not a report of a paid employee's experiments, and not a MS Thesis that requires original biomedical experimental research. The objective of the Essay is to strengthen the student's knowledge and understanding of the student's chosen topic. This objective is accomplished by the student's acquisition of knowledge on the topic through direct study of current biomedical science publications pertinent to the topic. Through this, and with guidance from the Essay Advisor, the student will both learn and implement critical analysis of the topic and scientific writing. The Essay's organization should be typical of a review manuscript, a compare-and-contrast article, or a scientific paper published in current biomedical science literature.

Satisfactory outcome in BMS7999 requires:

1. Registration for BMS 7999 after the completion of ~20 credits in the BMS program.
2. Identification of an Essay Advisor; must be WSU School of Medicine Graduate Faculty.
3. In consultation with the Essay Advisor, identification of an essay topic and preparation of the Essay Outline
4. In consultation with the Essay Advisor, identification of two Essay Committee members; at least one must be WSU Graduate Faculty, preferably in the School of Medicine.
5. Completion of the BMS Essay Committee Selection form with committee approval signatures submitted to the Program Coordinator via Canvas (**advised to be completed by the start of the term registered for BMS 7999**).
6. Completion of the ESSAY OUTLINE form. Following review and approval (signatures required) by Advisor and both members, submitted to the Program Coordinator via Canvas by posted deadline date.
7. Completion of the Essay, per requirements specified below.
8. The final Essay must be reviewed and approved by the Essay Advisor and both Committee Members (No oral examination/defense is required). The final Essay must be submitted to Canvas to run through a plagiarism check prior to grading.
9. Finally, the FINAL REPORT form must be completed, with a letter grade assigned and signed (signifying approval) by the Essay Advisor and both committee members. This form must be submitted to the Program Coordinator via email by the Essay Advisor by posted deadline date.

**Essay Advisor & Essay Topic:**

Each student during the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> term of full-time enrollment (following PLAN OF WORK submission, approval, and admission to candidacy), must select an ESSAY ADVISOR.

The Essay Advisor must be a member of the WSU School of Medicine Graduate Faculty (WSU Graduate Bulletin or <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/GradFaculty/db/GradFacultydb.asp>) and functions as the student's essay and academic advisor. The Essay Advisor should have expertise in the area of Basic Medical Sciences that the student has interest in expanding their knowledge of through the Essay. The student should meet with the potential Essay Advisor, indicate their general area of interest for the essay, and discuss the faculty member's willingness to be the Essay Advisor. They then should consider topics that are suitable for a BMS Essay.

**\* It is advised that this process be completed prior to the start of the term in which the student enrolls in BMS 7999.**

**Essay Committee Requirements:**

In consultation with the Advisor, the student must identify two additional WSU Graduate Faculty Essay Committee members with some knowledge in the essay's topic area and affiliation to WSU-SOM.

**\*The role of Essay Advisor and Committee member is attached for faculty. \***

Once an advisor and committee members have been selected the [BMS Essay Committee Selection Form](#) should be completed and submitted to the Program Coordinator.

**Essay Outline Form:** The student develops an Essay outline that must contain:

- [1] Title of the Essay
- [2] Brief (one to a few sentences) explanations why the subject matter to be covered is important and significant.
- [3] Statement (one to a few paragraphs) specifying the problem and/or hypothesis the essay will examine, explaining relevance to current biomedical research, problems, and issues, outlining the scope, and identifying resource(s) of information and data for the essay.

**Essay Outline/Final Report Submission and Approval Process:**

**The candidate must first complete the BMS Committee Selection form and submit at the start of the term. The Essay Outline will be due within the first month. The FORM must contain the essay outline, be signed by the student, approved (signed) by the Advisor and BOTH Committee members, and submitted to Canvas for approval by the BMS Program Director. Students should submit the final draft of their essay with the [Final Report form](#) to their Advisor and Committee three weeks prior to the end of the term to allow for ample time for review and grading. The final draft of the essay should also be uploaded to Canvas for a plagiarism check. The Final Report form must be completed and submitted to the BMS Program Coordinator with an assigned grade and signatures from the Advisor and Committee members by the final deadline date.**

**Scope of Essay:**

The Essay **should be ~25 pages** (8½x11 paper, 1 inch margins, double spaced, portrait, #ed pages), excluding [a] the title page, [b] table of contents, [c] lists of figures and tables, [j] figure(s) and/or table(s) pages], [k] list of references, and [i] biographical sketch.

**Essay should have the following structure:**

- [a] Cover/title page,
- [b] Table of contents,
- [c] List of figures and List of tables,
- [d] Introduction: state hypothesis or problem and its scope (≤ 1 page).
- [e] Background: state basis for the hypothesis.
- [f] Statement: strategy for the literature study (i.e., methods).
- [g] Body: **CRITICAL REVIEW OF SELECTED LITERATURE**, the major portion of the essay, should detail the findings with both supportive and negative evidence.
- [h] Discussion: an assessment of the findings in relation to the hypothesis stated in the introduction.
- [i] A single page summary and conclusions section.
- [j] Figures and/or Tables.
- [k] References (full citation: all authors, journal with inclusive pagination, full title).
- [l] Biographical sketch (academic) of student.

**\*There isn't a specific style we require for the essay, but most common used form is APA style. \*The scope of the essay can be adjusted as advised by the Essay Advisor.**

**Role of Essay Advisor**

- Oversee the essay outline
- Assist with choosing the essay committee if students haven't done so themselves
- Assist with the essay outline and completion of the Essay Outline form
- Provide guidance on the essay
  - Assist students with the scope of essay and guide using your own expertise in scientific writing
- Supervise essay progress and preparation of the final draft
  - The essay advisor should work with the student to establish the number of meetings, and the number of essay outline and drafts required to keep students on track with their writing.
  - Submit the completed Final Report Form with student's final grade to the Program Coordinator in the office of Biomedical Graduate Programs by the deadline

### **Role of Committee**

- Each MS Essay Committee should have no less than three members, including the student's thesis advisor, and at least two of the committee members must be WSU School of Medicine graduate faculty members. Other committee member(s) may be faculty of other schools/colleges within WSU that are expert(s) in the subject field.
  - Approve participating on the student's essay committee by signing the BMS Essay Committee Selection form
- Approve the Essay Outline form
- Serve to read and evaluate the BMS essay.
  - Critique and feedback throughout the writing process. Students are encouraged to seek feedback on their writing for clarity and breadth, among other things. The Thesis Advisor usually provides the bulk of the early feedback on writing; Committee members should be ready to read at least one rough draft prior to the final draft of the essay
- Approve the final draft of the essay and assign a letter grade in conjunction with the thesis advisor and other committee member. Sign off on this via the Final Report form.