

# Dental Student Honors Thesis

## Purpose

This is meant for D4 students graduating this academic year. This enables an 'Honors' designation on your dental diploma. It recognizes a body of research performed as a dental student at UB SDM. The process involves writing a thesis and a public defense (presentation). All information and forms are available on the UB SDM Student Research website: <https://dental.buffalo.edu/research/for-students/thesis-guidelines.html>.

## Process

1. Declare your interest in pursuing an honors thesis with a '**Letter of Intent**.' This must include the title of your thesis, the name and signature of your primary advisor/mentor, and the name and signature of one committee member who will serve as an external reader. This form must be countersigned by one of the Co-Chairs, Student Research and Honors Committee (SRHC), and submitted to Dr. Imon Candelaria, Senior Program Coordinator, Oral Biology ([imongosw@buffalo.edu](mailto:imongosw@buffalo.edu)).
2. Work with your advisor and prepare the thesis document (instructions below).
3. Submit the final draft version to your committee member(s) who will review and provide comments/suggestions.
4. The mentor and committee member(s) must inform the Co-Chairs, SRHC, of their approval of the draft thesis.
5. The SRHC Co-Chairs will then inform the student to coordinate a date-time for the public defense.
6. The public defense is a brief presentation (30-45min), which includes addressing feedback or suggestions by the reader(s).
7. A final copy of the thesis must be sent to the SRHC Co-Chairs (please cc Senior Program Coordinator, Oral Biology) along with a '**Thesis Defense Form**' which must be signed by the primary advisor/mentor, committee member(s), and one of the SRHC Co-Chairs.
8. The SRHC Co-Chairs will then inform the SDM Registrar of a successful defense (Cc: student, mentor, ADR).

**Timeline:** For D4 students graduating in May of that academic year

Date / Period	Activity	Responsible party	Contact
<b>Dec 22, 2025</b>	Letter of intent	Student	<i>Signatures:</i> Advisor, Reader, SRHC Co-Chair <i>Email:</i> Senior Program Coordinator (Oral Biology) (Cc: Advisor, SRHC Co-Chairs, ADR)
<b>Feb 16, 2026</b>	Approved thesis draft	Mentor and Reader	<i>Email:</i> Co-Chairs SRHC
<b>March 23, 2026</b>	Public defense	Student and Mentor	<i>Email announcement sent by:</i> Co-Chairs SRHC
<b>April 6, 2026</b>	Submission of final thesis document and Thesis Defense Form	Student	<i>Email:</i> Senior Program Coordinator (Oral Biology) (Cc: Co-Chairs SRHC, Advisor, ADR)

## Thesis

- This should follow a standard scientific thesis as per University at Buffalo Graduate thesis guidelines. <https://grad.buffalo.edu/succeed/graduate/electronic-submission.html>
- There are no minimum / maximum page limit requirements. Prior theses have been about 40 to 60 pages.
- All thesis must be written in block font (Arial or Times) at least 11 pt in size, with 1-inch margins, and at least 1.5 line spacing. All pages, except the first, should be numbered at the bottom right.
- Each thesis must have these sections: **Title page** (with a formal thesis statement), **Attributions / Acknowledgements**, **List of Contents**, **Introduction / Background**, **Hypothesis**, **Materials and Methods**, **Results**, **Discussion**, **Future Impact**, and **References**. Any reference format is permissible, we recommend using APA or Cell (journal). We **strongly** encourage using the **Endnote** software program available free from UB IT here: <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/software/by-title/endnote.html>.

## ***Public Defense***

A PowerPoint presentation with the same sections as the thesis should be prepared. These will usually include introduction, motivation / gap in knowledge / unmet need, hypothesis, materials and methods, results, conclusions and future impact / significance.

## ***Key Contacts***

Dr. Laertis Ikononou, Co-Chair, SRHC, [laertisi@buffalo.edu](mailto:laertisi@buffalo.edu)

Dr. Marcelle Nascimento, Co-Chair, SRHC, [mmnascim@buffalo.edu](mailto:mmnascim@buffalo.edu)

Dr. Keith Kirkwood, Senior Associate Dean for Research, [kkirk@buffalo.edu](mailto:kkirk@buffalo.edu)

Dr. Imon Candelaria, Senior Program Coordinator (Oral Biology) [imongosw@buffalo.edu](mailto:imongosw@buffalo.edu)

**TITLE**

**By XXXXXX**

**A Thesis Submitted to School of Dental Medicine University at Buffalo**

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Honors Requirements**

**Month, Year**