

## **Master of Science in Bacteriology Thesis Format**

### **Research Thesis:**

The student will write a thesis describing completed research, which is to be distributed to the research committee at least 2 weeks prior to the oral exam. The thesis should be written by the student and present the student's own work, under advisement of the research mentor. Work may be a result of collaborative projects, but a significant proportion should be the work of the student, and any contributions by others should be specifically noted as such in the thesis. Typically a Masters Thesis is expected to be 15-20 pages in length in a format similar to a primary research paper (see format below).

**Specific Aim(s):** Outlines/lists the major question(s) answered by the research presented and the specific approaches that were used.

**Introduction:** Provides background information to place the research performed into context of the field of interest for the readers.

**Results and Discussion:** Presents the results of experiments performed to address the major research question(s) introduced in Specific Aims, and discuss the relevance of the conclusions to the field of interest.

(Optional: If more than one Specific Aim is addressed by the thesis work, a separate Results/Discussion for each Aim would be appropriate)

**Future Directions:** Presents ideas for future directions of the project. Typically this section will be less than 1 page.

**References:** Provides references for the proposal.

### **Oral Defense:**

The student will present their thesis to the committee, to be defended at an oral examination. Typically, students will be given 20-25 minutes to present their work, followed by questions from the committee members. Questions will be about the thesis project, future plans for the project, future plans for the student, and may include general knowledge questions.