

AU College of Veterinary Medicine  
Undergraduate Research in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences (VBMS)

VBMS 4997- Honors Thesis

**Student:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Department:            APP            DCS            VPB

Credit\* (1-3h/semester): \_\_\_\_\_ Semester \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

\*VBMS 4997 can be repeated for up to 9h credit with new project outlines required for each repetition.  
Requires completion of VBMS 4987 (Honors Research).

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective:** [State the overall objective(s) of proposed honors thesis experience.]

**Goals & Aims:** [Expected learning outcomes for each Honors Thesis experience must be defined here. Broadly, such outcomes will include, but will not necessarily be limited to: (1) reading-intensive introduction to and review of the scientific literature in an AU-CVM/VBMS-related field; (2) development and refinement of technical writing skills; and (3) development/refinement of oral communication skills associated with oral presentation, discussion and defense of honors thesis research conducted in the AU-CVM/VBMS program. If additional learning outcomes are expected they should be listed below. Otherwise, simply indicate that learning outcomes outlined above are expected.]

**Deliverables and Timetable:** [All undergraduate students enrolled in VBMS 4997 must develop an 'Honors Thesis' based on completed 'Honors Research' activities. Generally, format for the 'Honors Thesis' will follow guidelines for preparation of theses as might be submitted for a graduate degree (ex. M.S.). An AU-CVM/VBMS 'Honors Thesis' would be expected to include the following sections: (1) title / signature page, on which both the student and mentor, as well as their specific academic affiliations, are identified; (2) one page biographical sketch of the student; (3) succinct review of published literature pertinent to the 'Honors Research' project; (4) detailed description of the 'Honors Research' project, to include the following sections - (i) abstract, (ii) introduction, (iii) materials and methods (to include documentation of all required approvals such as animal care and use, human subjects, and biosafety as appropriate), (iv) results, (v) discussion, and (vi) bibliography. The completed 'Honors Thesis' will be submitted to the mentor for review and evaluation. Once approved by the mentor, the student will prepare an oral presentation (with appropriate visual aids) as an overview of the 'Honors Thesis'.

This lecture will be presented to the AU-CVM/VBMS mentor, members of the sponsoring laboratory and guests as deemed appropriate by the mentor. With these requirements in mind, provide a list of all deliverables expected of the student and a general timetable for completion of activities.]

**Grading:** [The basic grading rubric for VBMS 4997, to be applied by the mentor, is as follows -- A letter grade will be assigned by the mentor based upon: (1) overall quality organization and content of the written thesis (70%) and; (2) format, content, accuracy and clarity of the oral presentation and response to questions during discussion/defense of the 'Honors Thesis'. Grades: 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), <60 (F). Any additional criteria to be used in grading should be listed below, together with the new grading rubric. Indicate – Not Applicable – if no additional grading criteria are proposed.]

By my signature I acknowledge that this document constitutes the syllabus for this VBMS 4987 undergraduate research experience:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Mentor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Dean for Research  
and Graduate Studies  
AU-CVM  
106 Greene Hall