

# Biochemistry/Molecular Biology policies

## Graduation with program distinction

Those with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 in the BCMB major will be considered for graduation with distinction by the BCMB faculty members. Additional considerations include demonstrated excellence in research as well as completion of the national assessment test (currently, the ASBMB certification exam).

## National exam for BCMB graduates

All BCMB graduates are expected to take a national exam. Currently, the ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) certification exam is used. The exam is intended for seniors and for those who have completed Biochemistry and a course in Molecular Biology. The exam is offered once a year in the spring semester and requires pre-registration. Students graduating in spring should take the exam in the final semester while those finishing after the fall semester should take the exam in the previous spring semester.

A BCMB faculty member, acting as an exam administrator, will contact eligible students via e-mail at the start of the spring semester and will register students. Currently, the ASBMB Certification Exam is used. There is a cost for the ASBMB exam, which currently is paid by Stockton. The exam takes an hour and must be given within a prescribed timeframe (typically in March). Students who earn high enough scores can earn an accreditation from ASBMB. Since it is expected that all graduates take the exam, failure to do so, without a valid reason, is negatively considered for program distinction decisions. More information about the exam can be found on the ASBMB website. [www.asbmb.org/accreditation/certificationexam/](http://www.asbmb.org/accreditation/certificationexam/)

## Senior Research Project Guidelines for BCMB Degree

In order to ensure uniformity among the various research experiences available to BCMB students to satisfy the requirements for successful completion of BCMB 4800 (Research Senior Project), the following requirements need to be met:

Expectations prior to beginning the

these goals. Students need to register for research every semester that they are in the lab. They need to earn a minimum of 2 credits for research (BCMB 4800).

#### After completion of the research project

Students must give an oral presentation of their work at the Senior Symposium held at the end of the Fall or Spring semesters. Student presentations are usually 15-20 minutes in length followed by a five minute question and answer period. The format should follow that of a scientific presentation: A brief introduction, methods, results and conclusions. Students are expected to be well prepared and organized. The audience has broad interests, and will appreciate the student's efforts to provide clear explanations.

Prior to the symposium, students will submit a 200-word abstract describing the highlights of the project (i.e. significance, general statement on methodology, key findings and conclusions). More specific information is made available each semester, or students may contact the BCMB sub-coordinator.

In addition to presenting their work, students must submit a written manuscript (report) in standard scientific format (Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, and References) describing their work. Students should submit a rough drafts to their Stockton faculty sponsors to allow students to obtain feedback to improve the report. Copies of the draft and final report are submitted to the Stockton faculty research mentor. A project grade will be assigned by the Stockton research sponsor. Grades are assigned by the faculty sponsor based on the