Scientific Paper and Prospectus

MS students are required to devote six hours to conducting research and writing a scientific paper based on the research. The paper topic, the research methodology, and the written format must be approved by the supervisory committee.

Scientific Paper Prospectus

The scientific paper prospectus should be a minimum of four pages and a maximum of six pages, double-spaced excluding references. The prospectus will contain the following sections.

Summary
Overview of the proposed research, limited to 200 words

Introduction
A statement of the proposed research including its importance to the field of study

Question(s)
A statement of the specific question or set of questions that will drive the research

Related Work
A review of pertinent literature on methods and related work that puts the proposed research in context and that shows the importance of the proposed research and how it contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the field

Approach
A description of how the research will be approached including specific methodologies that might be used in data collection and analysis

Workplan
A projected timeline and plan for completing the research and scientific paper

References
A list of relevant references using an approved style appropriate to the area of inquiry

Students must submit their scientific paper prospectus to the supervisory committee for review and approval before they embark on research. It is strongly advised that the scientific paper prospectus be prepared and approved before the end of the second semester.
BMI 592: Research

MS students enroll in BMI 592 in order to conduct the research that leads to the scientific paper. Students are not permitted to receive academic credit for doing research or to enroll in research hours until they have an approved supervisory committee consisting of at least three BMI core faculty members and have obtained the approval of their scientific paper prospectus by the members of the supervisory committee. Once the scientific paper prospectus has been approved, the student may apply to enroll in BMI 592 Research by completing the BMI 592 Application form available on the Web site.

Scientific Paper

When the research has been completed, students will write the scientific paper. The scientific paper should be written in accordance with the guidelines of a publishing venue agreed upon by the student and the faculty research advisor. This venue will almost always be a scientific journal. The scientific paper will typically be 20-40 manuscript pages in length, double-spaced.

Once completed, the scientific paper, along with a cover letter, is submitted to the members of the supervisory committee for review and approval. The cover letter explains the lessons learned based on the research and defines the methodological innovations and the range of problems for which their work may be applicable to and/or contribute to the field.

A draft of the scientific paper should be submitted to the members of the supervisory committee for review AT LEAST four weeks prior to the anticipated graduation date. When submitted to the supervisory committee for review, the scientific paper should conform to the requirements of the scientific journal that is a possible publishing venue, including all requirements with regard to format, length and presentation.

Members of the supervisory committee provide suggestions for revisions and/or approve the scientific paper as submitted. When suggestions for revision are given, the student should promptly incorporate these. When all of the comments of all of the members of the supervisory committee have been incorporated, the student should send a revised version of the scientific paper back to all members of the supervisory committee. When the members of the supervisory committee are satisfied that the scientific paper is acceptable, each member must sign the Report of Final Master’s Culminating Experience form available on the Web site.

After the signatures of members of the supervisory committee are obtained, the student must submit the scientific paper to the BMI Department Chair for review. The BMI Chair must also sign the Report of Final Master’s Culminating Experience form.

The student is responsible for obtaining the signatures of the members of their supervisory committee and the BMI Chair on the Report of Final Master’s Culminating Experience. Only original signatures are accepted by the Graduate College.
Once all signatures on the Report of Final Master’s Culminating Experience form have been obtained, the original form must be submitted to the Academic Advisor Coordinator for review. The Academic Advisor Coordinator will then submit the form to the Graduate College. Students should also submit a copy of their final scientific paper when turning in the Report of Final Master’s Culminating Experience form. The scientific paper should be submitted both in paper and electronic form.