

Guidelines for Culminating Experience Paper in Pfizer MA Program

**Nancy L. Thompson, PhD, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Brown University -Division of Biology and Medicine**

- You must discuss your topic with Dean Thompson and you receive approval of that topic by **January 15 2010** for the **May 2010** Graduation.
- Write for an audience who is scientifically knowledgeable in general terms but do not assume knowledge of your specific topic. Start by defining your topic in an introduction; indicate why it is important and what the current status is regarding this problem. The remainder of the paper should explore the topic in depth, focusing on current research cited in bibliography, controversies, gaps in knowledge, how this knowledge may be applied. The paper should allow you to apply your knowledge of biology coursework you have taken.
- If you are involved in research in this area, what are your views in regard to advances that can be made? Do not include anything that may be proprietary information.
- Cite original research papers in reputable biomedical journals in the bibliography; the majority should be recent (within last 10 years). A minimum of 15 references is expected. Use of reviews and text books should be minimal. Focus on biological rather than clinical journals and research. All statements referring to publications cited must be referenced. List complete references with titles of papers and inclusive pages. Refer to references within the paper by number or by author and year.
- Papers are expected to be mechanistic (at a cellular and molecular level) and explore a topic in depth, rather than descriptive and superficial. Students will be given one opportunity to rewrite papers that are deemed descriptive and superficial. If you are in doubt about your development of a topic, consult with the Associate Dean.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be grounds for NO CREDIT and forfeiture of degree status. There can be no copying from sources unless in quotations and this should be minimal- all information is to be expressed in your words.
- Number pages, font size 11-12, 1" margins, 1.5 spacing, include section headings to help organize the topic. Paper should be 10-15 pages. Figures may be included but must include source. *Figures, cover page and bibliography do not count in page count.*
- Include your name, the Brown / Pfizer program and the Date in a header
- Completed papers should be sent to:
Associate Dean Nancy Thompson
Brown University / Division of Biology & Medicine
Box G-A215, Providence, RI 02912
Phone: 401 863-3281
e-mail copies of your papers to Nancy_Thompson@brown.edu but a hard copy is also needed for faculty review.

Email SUBMISSION DEADLINE for May 2010 Graduation: April 1, 2010