



Department of Neuroscience

Thesis Writing Practicum Agreement

Student Name: _____

PeopleSoft#: _____

Term: _____

Course

Grade Option

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NROSCI 1962

Letter Grade

The goal of this course is to guide students in the process of writing a thesis paper based on original neuroscience-related research conducted under a faculty mentor's supervision.

To be considered as a candidate for NROSCI 1962, you **MUST ALREADY HAVE COLLECTED A MAJOR PORTION OF THE DATA TO BE REPORTED IN YOUR THESIS**. Typically, this means approximately 3 credits of NROSCI 1901 and 3 credits of NRSOCI 1961 (or the non-credit equivalent).

You will need to select a committee composed of your faculty mentor and at least one other faculty member to act as your thesis reader. (One member must be a primary faculty member from the Department of Neuroscience.)

Thesis criteria:

- ✓ At least twelve pages of textual material following the format of a scientific paper. The final thesis must include: title page, abstract, literature review, description of the experimental methods, results section, discussion and references. **It should be double spaced and single sided. The twelve pages of textual material do not include the title page, figures, figure legends, tables or references.**
 - A helpful resource is *Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences* by Victoria McMillan.

Timeline to accomplish writing in the term:

- Submit initial rough draft to faculty mentor by week 6 of term
- Submit revised draft to faculty mentor by week 8 of term
- Submit revised draft to faculty mentor and reader by week 12 of term
- Make final revisions by week 15 of term
- Submit electronic copy of paper to nrosciug@pitt.edu and a signed (by mentor, reader, and yourself) copy of thesis title page to the Neuroscience Undergraduate Advising Office by the last day of finals week.**

Required Signatures

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

By signing above, I agree to submit a thesis that is my own work, following the above guidelines and the suggestions of my faculty mentor and faculty reader, and to submit the final, signed version to the Neuroscience Advising Office by the last day of finals week.

Faculty Mentor Name: (please print) _____

E-mail: _____

Faculty Mentor Signature: _____

Date: _____

By signing above, I am verifying that this student has collected the major portion of the data to be included in the thesis. I agree to mentor the student in the process of writing a scientific thesis based on work performed in my lab. I will determine the final grade in conjunction with the Faculty Reader and submit the final grade.

Faculty Reader Name: (please print) _____

E-mail: _____

Faculty Reader Signature: _____

Date: _____

By signing above, I agree to read the thesis and possibly suggest revisions for the above student.

Department Signature: _____

Date: _____

Department authorization will be granted by either Dr. Susan Sesack or Dr. Steve Meriney. Dr. Sesack is located in A426D Langley. Dr. Meriney is located in 461C Crawford.

Return completed form before the end of add/drop to A210 LANGY to enroll.