

Dear Students of BIOMEDDC 4A15, BIOCHEM 4F09, and BIOCHEM 4T15 Senior Research Thesis:

The university community takes the health and wellness of our members seriously and we are interested in slowing the potential for spread of COVID-19. We are committed to ensuring the successful completion of the current academic term by all of our students. While the University has taken many measures to prepare and keep our community informed as the pandemic has unfolded, the university has made a decision to suspend classes at McMaster.

McMaster in-person classes and tests for undergraduate and graduate students will end as of Friday March 13th and no in-person exams will be held at the end of this term.

The following describes what you can expect for between now and the end of the term:

Between now and April 7, you can expect the following changes with respect to BIOMEDDC 4A15, BIOCHEM 4F09, and BIOCHEM 4T15 Senior Research Thesis course instruction for this course:

- The data collection phase of the thesis project should be considered completed, effective March 13th. There is no expectation for the student to continue their research.

In addition, you can expect the following changes to the assessments used for this course:

Final Lab Performance Evaluation (30%)

- Assessment of the final lab performance evaluation will include everything up to March 13th, the last day of scheduled classes.

Thesis Presentations (20%)

- There will be no in-person thesis presentations. Rather, students will be required to submit their PowerPoint presentation to their supervisor and the A2L dropbox by 8:00 am Wednesday, March 25th. On each slide students will be required to include a narrative of what they would say as if they were presenting to an audience. Supervisors will assess the presentation based solely on the PowerPoint and narrative. The only change to the rubric will be the elimination of the “answering of questions” criterion. All other criteria will remain the same. Only the student’s primary thesis supervisor will be grading the presentation slides/narrative.

Written Thesis (20%)

- There will be no changes to the due date or evaluation of the written thesis.

Networking and Future Directions Reflection (1%)

- The 1% networking and future directions reflection will be eliminated, reducing the total course assessment to 99%.

If you have a need for accommodations, please continue to communicate with Student Accessibility Services and keep me informed.

In the event significant changes to the COVID-19 situation, further changes may need to be made to this course. Please visit <https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/> for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

Drs. Nancy McKenzie and Felicia Vulcu
Thesis Course Coordinators

Dr. Brian Coombes
Chair, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences