

MCB Graduate Program Publication Policy

The goal of Ph.D. is to prepare students to become independent researchers and to master the scientific process. An important step in this training is the publication of scientific findings, which marks a milestone in completing a project and teaches valuable skills in communicating these results to other scientists and the public. The process of preparing manuscripts also serves as an important step in ensuring that scientific conclusions are placed into a broader context and are based on rigorous and reproducible experiments. Moreover, the process of submitting manuscripts introduces students to the system of peer review and teaches them how to respond to reviewer requests and questions.

With these goals and benefits in mind, it is expected that students in the MCB graduate program will publish at least one 1st-author (or co-1st-author) peer-reviewed research paper prior to graduation. Because the publication process itself can be lengthy, submission of a manuscript to an online archive (such as bioRxiv), together with submission to a peer-reviewed journal prior to graduation, will satisfy this requirement. Extenuating circumstances (such as illnesses, change of mentor, or problems outside of the student's control) may preclude publication prior to graduation. In this case, a waiver from the thesis committee will be necessary for the student to graduate. All waiver requests must be reviewed and approved by the GAC.

To ensure that students are working toward publishing, they will be expected to present their results at annual thesis committee meetings as publication-quality figures. Moreover, the following milestones will be expected at the student's annual thesis committee meetings:

3rd year thesis committee meeting (held during or before December of the 3rd year):

- Students will discuss with the thesis committee how they anticipate their preliminary findings might develop into a publication.

4th year thesis committee meeting (held during or before November of the 4th year):

- Students will discuss plans for publishing their work and present a draft outline of publication(s).

5th year thesis committee meeting (held during or before October of the 5th year):

- The expectation is that 1st author manuscripts will have been submitted.
- If there are no 1st author publications, students will present full figures and an outline of paper(s) to be submitted, as well as plans for submission and revision within the timeframe for completing the Ph.D.