

Advanced Research Project theses in the UNB Physics Department

Expectations and important dates

Taking an Honours degree in the Physics department of the University of New Brunswick (or taking the Advanced Research Project course without doing Honours) involves performing a research project under the supervision of one of the faculty, writing a thesis on your work, and giving a seminar about your project to the faculty and your fellow students. This document describes some of our expectations of you and the important dates by which certain activities should be completed.

1. **Choose a supervisor** (Monday, Sept. 23, 2019) - any of the professors or instructors in the Department are able to supervise or co-supervise your thesis work. Approach a number of them to see what projects are available, or if you suggest your own project to see if anyone is willing and able to act as your supervisor. When you have made suitable arrangements, provide the Chair or Administrative Assistant of the Department with the name of your supervisor and a title for your project.
2. **Prepare a proposal and timeline for your project** (Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019) - the first stage of your Advanced Research Project work involves background research and planning. Prepare an outline of the project (1/2-1 page), and a timeline that describes the steps required to complete your work along with the expected dates for their completion. You should periodically review as to whether you are meeting your timeline markers. Review your proposal and timeline with your supervisor(s) in advance of submitting it to the Chair or Executive Assistant. The proposals will be circulated to the Faculty and Instructors, from which a number of readers (usually two) for your final thesis will be selected.
3. **Mid-project report** (Friday, January 10, 2020) - prepare a short report on how the project has gone so far and how you anticipate the project will progress from here. Submit the report to your supervisor, who will read it and write comments giving you feedback on your progress by Friday, January 17, 2020.
4. **Submit your thesis** (Tuesday, March 31, 2020) - in advance of this date, your supervisor(s) should have read and made corrections and suggestions to a complete draft of your thesis. Allow yourself a number of weeks to compose the document! Instructions regarding formatting and contents of your thesis will be available on the Department of Physics website. Submit your draft to the Department's Chair or Administrative Assistant in PDF format in a single file. This draft will then be circulated to the readers of your thesis.
5. **Give your presentation** (Wednesday, April 09, 2020) - prepare a presentation on your work of about 20 min. duration, and review it with your supervisor(s). On the presentation date, you will give your presentation, and will then be questioned on your work by the readers, your supervisor, and then the rest of the audience.
6. **Make corrections and write to your reviewers** (end of term) - the people who have evaluated your work will have almost certainly suggested changes and revisions to your thesis. Make all revisions that you (and your supervisor) agree are necessary. Write a brief response to your reviewers, addressing their concerns and explaining to them anything that

requires clarification. (You might thank them, too, for their efforts!). Submit your thesis to the Executive Assistant for binding, and then you are done!

Marking of the projects is as follows:

- i. 50% of your mark will be given by your supervisor(s), who will assess the quality and quantity of the work done for the Advanced Research Project, and the level of initiative and responsibility with which you conducted it;
- ii. 25% of your mark will be assigned by the readers; who will base their mark on the contents, quality of writing, and general impression of your thesis, and
- iii. 25% of your mark will come from the department members in the audience at your presentation, who will assess the clarity, organization, use of visuals, response to questions, and other aspects of your presentation. The grading form used by the department members is available on the Departmental website.