Biochemistry 99a,b and 150a,b Information and Expectations

Brandeis Biochemistry concentrators who want to complete honors B.S. or B.S./M.S. degrees are required to take two (B.S.) or four (B.S./M.S.) semesters of these research courses. The courses create time in the student’s academic schedule to allow them to perform their research project under the supervision of a Brandeis faculty member who serves as the instructor of the courses.

The student and instructor should be aware that:

- Ordinarily, the student takes all of their research courses and completes their thesis with a single faculty member. Before registering for a research course, the student and faculty member should discuss and agree that the student is planning on doing their thesis research with the faculty member and the faculty member is planning to be the student’s thesis mentor.

- Bchm 99a,b and 150a,b are each a four-credit course. University policy is that for four credits students are expected to devote an average of 12 hours per week to the course. (For 99 and 150 this might include both in-lab time and any out-of-lab time for reading, data analysis, thesis writing, etc.). The student and instructor should come to an agreement about work hours and schedule before completing the student’s registration.

- Instructors are expected to meet individually with each of their Bchm 99/150 students at least once per week during the semester.

- As a part of 99/150, the student is required to give at least one oral presentation on their work per semester. This is typically done as a part of the faculty member’s lab meeting or, for second-semester seniors, as a part of the Biochemistry Department Undergraduate Research Symposium held annually in April.

- For second-semester seniors, it is expected that the student’s work in Bchm 99/150 will consist mostly or entirely of thesis writing. The advisor should work closely with the student to guide thesis organization, figure preparation, and to give feedback on thesis drafts. Student and advisor should agree on a schedule in advance for the student to give the advisor drafts and the advisor to give feedback sufficiently in advance of the thesis due date that needed revisions can be made.