

***Master's Plan A Research Criteria***

The minimal criteria for completing the research component of Master's Plan A is to test a scientific hypothesis. This hypothesis must be mutually agreeable between each student and his/her mentor, and students are encouraged to seek guidance from the mentor to develop a hypothesis to test. The hypothesis does not have to be validated, that is proven correct, but there must be a clear positive or negative outcome supported by data generated by the student. The specific details on which the outcome is based (i.e. amount of data needed) are to be established by the student and mentor, preferably in advance to the initiation of the bench work.

We encourage the hypothesis to be experimental in nature, that is, involving the performance of a series of experiments to prove/disprove its validity. However, the hypothesis could also be designed to optimize conditions for an experiment or establish a suitable control for an experiment.