Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to specify the parameters for the Biomedical Science MS Project. The MS project option is a scholarly project that is defined in collaboration with a faculty advisor and committee. Projects may occur in conjunction with faculty research, but may also take advantage of project opportunities with industry. Final approval of the project is given by the student’s Project Committee.

Guidelines:

A student must find a faculty advisor with whom to work on the project. Typically the project will have a natural relationship with the advisor’s research. More than one student may work with an advisor on a related topic, but each student must satisfy the requirements of the project completely. Projects involving an industry collaborator must be approved by the student’s academic advisor and must comply with conflict of interest rules of Wake Forest University, or Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Project Committee Composition:

Each student’s Project Committee will be composed of three members: (1) a project advisor, (2) a member of the Program Graduate Committee who will serve as chair of the Project Committee, and (3) an additional program member. All members of the Project Committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University (clinicians or industry members must obtain temporary faculty status). The Project Committee will decide upon the feasibility and acceptability of both the proposed project and the final document. All projects must comply with academic standards of the Responsible Conduct of Research, including rules and regulations governing the use of research subjects, including Animal Care and Use Committee approval for any experiments involving research animals, or Institutional Review Board approval for experiments involving human subjects.

Project Expectations:

All projects must meet a standard for scholarly activity as determined by the student’s project committee. The project should be formulated as a project plan for the course (BMSC 795) that includes: 1) a project description; 2) learning objectives; 3) definition of the capstone document; 4) a rubric that includes the requirements for successful fulfillment of the project; and 5) a timeline of the project, including completion deadline.

Once the project is approved the student must submit the project notification form to the Graduate School. This form should be submitted by the student no later than the fall semester prior to May graduation. Permission of the committee to proceed on the project does not imply a successful project grade. Projects are graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory. If an Unsatisfactory (U) is assigned, the course must be repeated and a Satisfactory (S) earned before the degree can be awarded.
Additional Guidance:

Students must submit an Intent to Graduate form in the semester in which they plan to graduate. The deadline for submission of the intent is listed on the academic calendar.

Programs must submit an MS Advance to Candidacy form to the Graduate School in the semester in which a student plans to graduate. The deadline for submission of forms to graduate is listed on the academic calendar.

The student must submit a final document consistent with the rubric provided by his or her Project Committee. At the completion of the project, the committee will submit a notification of final results (ballot) to the Dean of the Graduate School. If a student fails the final project submission, he/she may repeat only once. Project titles will be listed on the student’s transcript.