

Re: 2025-2026 Annual Report (Longwood Senior Thesis Committee)

Date: May 2026

Committee Members:

Maxwell Hennings (27), Chair

Julian Dymacek (26)

Mark Kostro (26)

Jo Morrison (27)

Dawn Schwartz (27)

Adam Blincoe (28)

Alison King (28)

Michelle Parry (28)

Ravi Sankar (28)

Ex-officio: Amorette Barber

On December 9th, 2025, the members of the senior thesis committee met to evaluate one student research proposal. In addition, this coming Tuesday May 5th and Wednesday May 6th, 2026, the members of the senior thesis committee will meet to evaluate five student research proposals.

We are also happy to announce that six of nine active students working on a thesis in the 2025/2026 academic year have, or are on track, to successfully defend their projects and will be awarded honors at commencement.

This year there will be one student continuing their project into the 2026/2027 academic year and we have five students that have submitted proposals this semester with the goal of starting a thesis as part of the LST program in the fall. We anticipate there will be a total of 6 active theses at the start of the 2026/2027 academic year, which is comparable to previous years.

All committee records including submitted thesis proposals and final thesis documents are stored digitally in a committee shared Box folder (cloud-based file sharing tool) and within the Longwood digital commons system.

Anticipated/Awarded Honors in 2025-2026:

Spring 2025

***(asked to be awarded in the during commencement this year rather than last year)**

With Honors in Biology, Grace I. Cohen

Blockade of chPD1 T cell derived cytokines decreases inflammatory molecules related to cytokine release syndrome in acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Amorette Barber, Director

Fall 2025

With Honors in Chemistry, Elaina I. Grogg

Tuning switch performance for single molecule electronics.
Ben Topham, Director

Spring 2026

With Honors in Chemistry, Bryant P. Corbin
The Chemical Nature of Colors: Exploration in Variance Between Natural and Synthetic Colorants.
Sarah Porter, Director

With Honors in Chemistry, James B. Daniel
Click-Based Synthesis of Hemibastadin Derivatives and Their Applications as Antimicrobial and Biofilm Inhibiting Agents.
Andrew Yeagley, Director

With Honors in Biology, Rachel L. Danzitz
Isolation of Iron-Oxidizing Bacteria from Environmental Sampling.
Bjoern Ludwar, Director

With Honors in Biology, Nicholas J. Duellman
Discovery of suitable habitat for Freshwater Mussel species in the Appomattox River through the use of environmental DNA.
Jameson Hinkle, Director

With Honors in Environmental Science, Sarah S. Lacy
Quantifying the Rates of Coastal Change along Smith Island, Maryland
Ravi Sankar, Director

Proposals Reviewed in F2025:

Project in Chemistry, Lina Mohamedhaj
Ben Topham, Director

Proposals Reviewed in S2026:

Project in Economics, Lydia Williams
Adrienne Sudbury, Director

Project in English, Sarah Auman
John Miller, Director

Project in Biology, Javier Roldan
Joanna Reinhold, Director

Project in Psychology, Caitlin Colbert
Jessica Bourdon, Director

Project in English, Hailee Jones
Brandon Haffner, Director