Department of
Integrative Biology & Physiology

Graduate Student Handbook
2010-2011

Graduate Program Office Location:
6-125 Jackson Hall
(612) 625-5902
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1. Integrated Biology and Physiology (IBP) Graduate Program Overview

Message from the IBP Director of Graduate Studies (DGS):

Welcome!

Physiology may be defined as the application of mathematics, physics and chemistry to the study of structure and function in living systems. As such, physiology is a “hybrid” field in which expertise from many other disciplines is ordinarily required and combined.

The program emphasizes a quantitative approach to understanding the functions of cells, organs and systems in living animals. PhD students take a core concentration that provides a broad background in the physiology of membranes, cells, transport and organ systems. Individualized programs are structured to build on the student’s strengths and to fill in gaps that would otherwise be an impediment to specific problem solving.

Areas of specialization include a growing cardiovascular core and other areas as well. We are glad you are in the IBP Graduate Program and wish you success in your endeavors!

John Osborn, DGS

The IBP Graduate Program handbook provides information on requirements, policies and logistics in the IBP department, the University and the Graduate School. The information provided in this handbook should be used as a supplement to the University’s Graduate Student Handbook.

IBP Graduate Students should become familiar with the following University guidelines and resources:

Graduate School [http://www.grad.umn.edu/](http://www.grad.umn.edu/)

Graduate School Catalog [http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/grad/index.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/grad/index.html)

Graduate Student Services and Progress (GSSP) Office [http://www.grad.umn.edu/offices-contacts/student_services.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/offices-contacts/student_services.html)

Prospective Students [http://www.grad.umn.edu/prospective_students/](http://www.grad.umn.edu/prospective_students/)

Current Students [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/)

One Stop Student Services [http://onestop.umn.edu/](http://onestop.umn.edu/)

Graduate Assistant Employment Services Information [http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/gae/](http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/gae/)

Counsel of Graduate Students [http://www.cogs.umn.edu/](http://www.cogs.umn.edu/)

Registration [http://onestop.umn.edu/registration/index.html](http://onestop.umn.edu/registration/index.html)

For any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, students should contact

Financial information: Randi Lundell, 612-626-4925 or email rlunde@umn.edu,

Academic Information: John Osborn or Stephen Katz

Other questions: Sylvia Carlson 6-6686 or carl3781@umn.edu
Goals and Objectives of the Master’s and PhD Programs in IBP

The goals and objectives the PhD program are aligned with the IBP Mission Statement:

*Dedicated to an integrative systems biology approach to biomedical discovery.*
We partner with colleagues across disciplines to investigate questions ranging from the gene/molecule to the whole animal, striving for excellence in research and dissemination of new knowledge with local, national, and global impact.

*Committed to mentoring and training graduate students.*
We empower students to develop a deep understanding of the complexity of physiological systems to enable them to pursue unique career pathways spanning from academia to bio-industry.

*Devoted to excellence, innovation, and scholarship in education.*
We educate students in the integration of structure and function of cells, organ-systems, and living animals, providing a strong foundation for knowledge discovery in basic science and human health fields.

Graduate Studies in IBP

Success in research demands creativity, the ability to think critically and the mastery of technical skills. Although it is often said that one “cannot teach creativity,” it certainly can be encouraged and rewarded. As for critical thinking and technical skills, these are acquired through a carefully structured curriculum that emphasizes learning from original research papers and hands-on laboratory experience rather than summaries usually found in textbooks. In all cases, the IBP Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota is highly individualized so that each student has the freedom to pursue their own scientific interests with respect to their unique academic background. There is, however, a fundamental base of knowledge in the Life Sciences (Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Systems Physiology and Neuroscience) that provides a strong foundation for advanced study. Course work in these areas constitutes the core curriculum and demonstrated understanding of this material is required of all students. These courses are usually taken within the first two years of study. Beyond the core requirements, individualized programs are structured to address advanced work in the student’s chosen area of specialization.

Each student is encouraged to participate in laboratory rotations with faculty whose research interests are similar to that of the student. These rotations provide hands-on experience with state-of-the-art techniques and give the student an opportunity to explore a variety of specialization options available within the program.
Graduate Faculty in Integrative Biology & Physiology

The following Graduate Faculty can serve as Thesis Advisors for PhD students. Note, this list will change over time—consult the DGS’s or the IBP Grad web site for the most up-to-date list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Bache, MD</td>
<td>Coronary circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Metzger, PhD</td>
<td>Integrative systems biology of cardiovascular function; Cardiac genetic engineering and experimental cardia gene therapy; Transgenic models of heart disease; Molecular mechanisms of sarcomere function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bernlohr, PhD</td>
<td>Adipose biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott O’Grady, PhD</td>
<td>Electrolyte transport in epithelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bitterman, MD</td>
<td>Respiratory medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Osborn, PhD</td>
<td>Pathophysiology of hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Engeland, PhD</td>
<td>Adrenal gland physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steer, Clifford, MD</td>
<td>Liver, bone marrow and brain disorders; bile acids as potent antiapoptotic agents; role of microRNAs in gene regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ervasti, James M.</td>
<td>Molecular basis of Muscular Dystrophy; Role of actin in cell polarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alena Talkachova, PhD</td>
<td>Cardiovascular electrophysiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Garry, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Regenerative medicine; Cardiogenesis; Stem cell biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Taylor, PhD</td>
<td>Cardiac stem cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary G. Garry, PhD</td>
<td>Determining the role of TRPv1 dysregulation in cardiovascular responses to exercise in heart failure, determining factors that dysregulate the TRPv1 in heart failure, and determining factors that mark the group III afferent neuron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaDora Thompson, PhD</td>
<td>Cellular mechanisms of aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Iaizzo, PhD</td>
<td>Muscle cell pathophysiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jianyi Zhang, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David H. Ingbar, MD</td>
<td>Alveolar epithelial repair and clearance of alveolar edema fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Low, PhD</td>
<td>Nerve cell transplantation and gene therapy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following Graduate Faculty can serve on Thesis Committees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mustafa N. al’Absi, PhD</strong></td>
<td>Duluth Campus</td>
<td>Neurobiological mechanisms of stress and risk for heart disease; Biological and psychosocial predictors of addiction and relapse; Pain perception and endogenous opioid system functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>David Levitt, MD, PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>X-ray crystallography of protein structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lisa Carney Anderson, PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Muscle cardiovascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Glenn H. Nordehn, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Janet L. Fitzakerley, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td>Sensory physiology; Hearing science; Central nervous system development; Information processing in the brainstem and inner ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edward K. Stauffer, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td>Spinal mechanisms of motor control; Intrinsic electrophysiological properties of spinal neurons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goran B. Hellekant, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O. Douglas Wangensteen, PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respiratory physiology; Bronchial epithelium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lois J. Heller, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td>Influences of various pathophysiological conditions upon cardiac function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anthony J. Weinhaus, PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stephen A. Katz, PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Renin Angiotensin system Adipocyte endocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lorentz Wittmers, Jr., MD, PhD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duluth Campus</strong></td>
<td>Temperature regulation and metabolism with special emphasis on cold exposure and hypothermia; Pain perception and addiction with special emphasis on smoking and smoking cessation.</td>
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IBP Department History

The Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology (formerly the Department of Physiology) has a long and distinguished tradition for excellence in research and graduate education. The department was founded in 1889 and achieved national and international prominence in large part through the efforts of Dr. Maurice Visscher during his tenure as Chairman from 1936 to 1968. Dr. Visscher received both his MD and PhD degrees from the University of Minnesota. His pioneering research on cardiac energy metabolism began in Starling’s laboratory in Cambridge and eventually provided a foundation for the development of open heart surgery techniques at the University of Minnesota. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences [http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer](http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer), served as president of the American Physiological Society [http://www.the-aps.org/](http://www.the-aps.org/) and as president of the International Union of Physiological Scientists. In recognition of his scientific contributions and his service to the University of Minnesota, an endowed professorship was established in his honor.

Dr. Visscher also began another tradition at Minnesota: A tradition of collaboration between the departments of Physiology, Surgery and Medicine that emphasized the importance of understanding basic physiologic mechanisms and applying this knowledge to the development of new approaches in clinical medicine.

This tradition continues today through an interdepartmental graduate program in Integrative Biology & Physiology, which draws upon the expertise of physiologists in both basic science and clinical departments. This program provides a greater range of opportunities and experiences for graduate student training than could otherwise be provided through a single department. It also increases access to state-of-the-art research facilities and equipment in each of these departments to support graduate student and faculty research activities within the program.

In 1999, the Physiology Department moved into its new space in the completely renovated Jackson Hall. Its current location is between Nils Hasselmo Hall and the new Molecular and Cellular Biology Building, which opened in 2002.

In 2008, Dr. Joseph Metzger became the new department head and shortly thereafter, the Physiology Department changed its name to Integrative Biology & Physiology (IBP) to better reflect its focus on research of Integrative Biology & Physiology.
IBP Department Location and Staff Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Department of Integrative Biology & Physiology
University of Minnesota
6-125 Jackson Hall
321 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0250
Phone: (612) 625-5902
Fax: (612) 625-5149
http://physiology.med.umn.edu

Joseph Metzger, Department Head
6-125 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-8296, metzgerj@umn.edu

John Osborn, Director of Graduate Studies
2-153 Jackson Hall, (612) 624-3074, osbor003@umn.edu

Stephen Katz, Associate Director of Graduate Studies
2-145 Jackson Hall, (612) 626-6899, katzx001@umn.edu

Randi Lundell, 6-129A Jackson Hall, (612) 626-4925, rmlunde@umn.edu
and Sylvia Carlson, 6-6686, carl3781@umn.edu
Assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies

Deb Fergus, Executive Assistant to the Head of the Department
6-125 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-9137, fergus226@umn.edu

Yang Chong, Accountant II
6-129 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-2970, chong001@umn.edu

Lynn Katz, Accountant II
6-129 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-7113, kaatz003@umn.edu

Jessica Sundin, Executive Office and Administrative Specialist
6-125 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-7456, sundi008@umn.edu

Molly Rochford, Personnel Specialist
6-120 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-3687, rochf003@umn.edu

Graduate Student Mailboxes
6-125 Jackson Hall, Department Reception Area

After-Hours Building Access
Students who have an advisor with lab space in Jackson Hall or Nils Hasselmo Hall (NHH) will be
authorized for after-hours access to the relevant building. After-hours access to Jackson Hall and NHH is
granted through use of the U-Card, your University of Minnesota identification card.
2. Application and Admission Information

Graduate Program and Graduate School Commitment to Diversity

The IBP Graduate Program embraces the University of Minnesota’s position that promoting and supporting diversity among the student body is central to the academic mission of the University. A diverse student body enriches graduate education by providing a multiplicity of views and perspectives that enhance research, teaching and the development of new knowledge. Higher education trains the next generation of leaders of academia and society in general, and such opportunities for leadership should be accessible to all members of society. The IBP Graduate Program is, therefore, committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities through recruitment, admission, support of programs that promote diversity and foster successful academic experiences that in turn help to cultivate the leaders of the next generation.

The Integrative Biology & Physiology PhD Program accepts applications from four categories of applicants.

1. We do have some slots open for very well qualified independent individuals. If you believe you are well qualified (appropriate Calculus, Physics, Biochemistry prerequisites, excellent grades, high GRE scores, preferably with research experience……) then we invite you to apply.
2. We are also accepting applications for Ph.D. training from people with previous medical training who are already at the University of Minnesota or are considering the University of Minnesota Medical School for residency or fellowship training. For instance, a surgical resident, a renal or cardiology fellow, or other comparable student may be interested in bundling their required research into a Ph.D. program. The new Physician – Scientist program is an option here.
3. We are also trying to establish ties to local private industries that are engaged in relevant Physiological projects. For instance, there are people working in various biotechnology and bioengineering companies in the Twin Cities that are already doing work in Physiology, and who may benefit from formal training.
4. Also, people already affiliated with our graduate faculty are encouraged to apply for admission. For instance, appropriate undergraduate students, lab techs, or other people already working in a graduate faculty laboratory may be good candidates for the Ph.D. program.

Prerequisites for Admission and How to Apply are accessed at http://physiology.med.umn.edu/grad/admission.htm

If you are unable to use the online application form, please contact:

Randi Lundell, Assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Integrative Biology & Physiology, University of Minnesota
6-129A Jackson Hall, 321 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-USA
Phone: (612) 626-4925
Fax: (612) 625-5149
Email: rlunde@umn.edu
Selection Process

Admission to the IBP Graduate Program is on a competitive basis. All admission and financial support decisions are determined separately. However, to maintain a high quality program, the faculty requires that all entrants devote full-time to the PhD Program. Generally, this means that virtually all students admitted to the PhD program are afforded full financial aid for the duration of their studies. However, the Master’s Degree Program is designed to be completed while the student is employed in the Twin Cities.

In considering applications, the Graduate Program Selection Committee looks at more than a student’s academic record and scores from standardized exams (GREs). The committee looks for evidence of creativity and initiative in letters of recommendation, previous laboratory experience or other work experience.
3. Program Contents

Graduate Student Orientation (GSO)

All newly admitted Graduate School students are given an orientation by the DGS and associate DGS before classes begin. A course schedule and first rotation is worked out and upcoming milestones are pointed out. New students can also attend the Graduate Student Orientation Program [http://www.ofyp.umn.edu/graduate-students.html](http://www.ofyp.umn.edu/graduate-students.html) hosted by Orientation & First-Year Programs [http://www.ofyp.umn.edu/](http://www.ofyp.umn.edu/). GSO offers a variety of informational sessions designed to help students transition into graduate school, meet other graduate students, and provide valuable information about the University. [https://myu.grad.umn.edu/registration_student_services/orientation.html](https://myu.grad.umn.edu/registration_student_services/orientation.html)

Advisor Selection

The Director of Graduates Studies (DGS) is the default Faculty Advisor for all new graduate students during the first year, (with the exception of students admitted to the graduate program with a research assistantship provided by a specific faculty member). The DGS can assist students with developing a program of study, selecting a Thesis Advisor, Graduate School paperwork and course permission numbers.

All students are expected to select a Thesis Advisor, who then also becomes their Faculty Advisor, by the end of their first year. Students are encouraged to speak with different faculty members about their interests and possible research topics. There are several mechanisms to facilitate the process of identifying the student’s top choices for a thesis advisor including:

1) A web site lists potential advisors and research interests. See [http://physiology.med.umn.edu/people/GradFaculty.htm](http://physiology.med.umn.edu/people/GradFaculty.htm)
2) The initial Faculty Advisor (the DGS) can brief students on appropriate choices for a Thesis Advisor.
3) Departmental seminars presented by potential faculty advisors are given throughout Fall and Spring semesters.
4) It is also helpful if students take the initiative to arrange individual meetings with faculty of interest.
5) Students should also meet with current graduate student advisees of faculty and explore the infrastructure that exists at the University for research projects of interest.

Once selected, the Thesis Advisor guides students in choosing remaining coursework and thesis research. The Thesis Advisor also provides financial support for their students from their research grants.

Students with traineeships should check with the stipulations of the training grant regarding the timing of advisor selection.

Remember that the advisor-advisee relationship is mutual; faculty members must agree to become a student’s advisor. Upon selection of a faculty member and the faculty member’s acceptance of advising responsibilities, students should inform the DGS.
Class Registration

Registration for each semester begins approximately one month prior to the end of the previous term. For example, registration for fall semester begins in April. All graduate students must register for both fall and spring semesters throughout the term of their appointments as graduate students assistants, or lose employment and health benefits.

The deadline for fall registration is usually somewhere around September 1st. Fall semester begins the Tuesday after the Labor Day Holiday. A late registration fee will be charged for students enrolling in classes during the first 14 days of the semester.

Please see the one stop registration website at http://onestop.umn.edu/registrar/registration/index.html for complete information about fall semester registration. Printable publications for each semester may be found at; http://onestop.umn.edu/registration/printable_p_and_p/index.html

All new graduate students should meet with the DGS to review their initial course selections and registration. Thereafter, continuing graduate students should register with the approval of their assigned Faculty Advisor.

Some courses require prior approval from the department offering the course before students can register. For questions or registration approvals, contact a DGS or assistant DGS.

To register via the University of Minnesota One Stop website, http://onestop.umn.edu/registration/index.html, you will need your student ID number or social security number and your password to log on. Your initial password is your date of birth; once logged into the system, you can choose a different password. If you are unable to login initially with your date of birth, contact the Student Services Center, 200 Williamson Hall, 612-625-5333.

You must clear all registration holds before you will be permitted to register. A new student who has the hold “BACH DEGREE” on record must submit a transcript or other evidence of graduation from the undergraduate institution to the Registrar’s Office, 200 Fraser Hall. For more information on holds and hold clearance, go to the One Stop website.

A student who holds a graduate assistantship must register for a minimum of 6 credits for each of the fall and spring semesters. However, the graduate assistant tuition benefit is capped at 14 credits per semester; if you register for more than 14 credits, you will be responsible for paying the additional tuition. A PhD candidate (i.e., a PhD student who has successfully completed the preliminary examinations and has completed 24 thesis credits) need only register for a minimum of 1 graded thesis credit per semester to maintain the graduate assistantship.

Your advisor must approve your enrollment in summer session classes.

A PhD student may register for doctoral thesis credits only after passing the preliminary oral exam.

A student who has completed all of their coursework and thesis credits and who needs to maintain a minimum number of credits to satisfy non-Graduate School requirements, such as receiving or deferring repayment of loans, keeping assistantships, or maintaining visa status, may register for Full Time Equivalent (FTE) credit - FTE: Master’s; FTE: Doctoral; or FTE: Doctoral Pre-Thesis Credits. These courses are intended only for advanced MS and PhD students who have completed all their program coursework and required thesis credits, but still are working full-time on the research or writing of their thesis, papers,
capstone project or dissertation. These credits cannot be used to meet specific program course or credit requirements, nor can they be used to meet the 24 doctoral thesis credit requirement.

Students are required to register every fall and spring semester to maintain active status in the Graduate School. Requests to schedule final oral examinations, for example, will not be honored if a student is considered inactive. If your student status has become inactive, you will need to reapply for admission to the Graduate School.

- The University of Minnesota uses a four-digit course numbering system. Graduate students typically fulfill their course requirements by registering in courses at the 5xxx and 8xxx levels. In some cases, such as coursework necessary for the research which is outside the student’s prior major and graduate coursework to date, 4xxx level courses can be used towards degree course requirements with pre-approval of the advisor and DGS. DGS pre-approval may be granted occasionally for a course at the 6xxx or 7xxx levels.

MS and PhD candidates who believe they have taken courses for undergraduate credit that are the equivalent of required Physiology (PHSL) graduate core courses should consult their advisor.
4. Degree Requirements

IBP Master’s Degree Requirements

Twin Cities Campus

A Master’s Degree for individuals is sometimes available, but only for special circumstances. A total of 20 graduate credits, 14 graduate credits in physiology, 6 graduate credits outside of physiology plus at least 10 thesis research credits, are required. The degree is based on laboratory research, and requires a written thesis or written project and an oral presentation of the work for the final exam.

The Master’s Degree is Plan A, unless there are special circumstances requiring a Plan B. For Plan B, the final exam is oral.

The Plan A option for a Master’s Degree requires the completion of a thesis/project to be submitted to The Graduate School. The formatting requirements for the thesis/project are outlined in the “Preparation of the Master’s Thesis/Project,” available outside 310 Johnston Hall and at http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/masters.html.

The Plan B option for a Master’s Degree requires the completion of at least one Plan B project. The graduate faculty in each major may require as many as three such projects. More information regarding the Plan B option is available in the Graduate School Catalog and at http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/masters.html.

Master’s candidates. The Graduate School requires final exams for both Plan A and B master’s degrees. The exams may be written, oral, or both, depending upon the major field.
IBP PhD Degree Requirements

Graduate level course work in cell & molecular physiology and medical physiology provide a foundation for PhD Program students.

In the first year of the PhD program, students are required to take courses in Cell and Medical Physiology, as well as three laboratory rotations and some seminar courses (see below). The coursework is tailored to the student’s interests with input from the director of graduate studies and the advisor. During the first year, students rotate through three laboratories, pick an advisor, and begin a research project.

A preliminary written exam (PWE) in physiology is taken after the first two semesters of classes (before the preliminary oral exam) and is based on the Cell Physiology, Medical Physiology & related seminar coursework. The preliminary oral exam (POE), usually at the end of the second year, is given to test the student’s ability to apply principles of both physiology and the minor or supporting program to a proposed research based thesis. A doctoral student must write a thesis project proposal and must successfully defend it in a preliminary oral exam. This exam must be scheduled with The Graduate School and cannot be held until all work on the official course program has been completed and the written preliminary exam has been passed.

A minimum of 12 credits must be completed in the minor field or supporting program (Non-PHSL graduate credits).

After the successful completion of the preliminary oral exam, the student is expected to do primarily thesis research. At the completion of the thesis research, the student must write their thesis and then orally defend it (thesis defense).

A completion checklist of ALL requirements is given at [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/doctoral/phdeddchecklist.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/doctoral/phdeddchecklist.html)

An example of a typical PhD curriculum is given on the following pages:
# Sample PhD Curriculum

**PhD Curriculum Integrative Biology & Physiology (IBP)**

**Graduate Program Incoming Students Fall 2009**

## YEAR 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PHSL 5700 Cell Physiology (or ANSC 5700)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molecular biology/genetics course (options below)</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biostatistics (options below)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(PHSL 5094) 1st and 2nd Laboratory Rotations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(PHSL 5095) IBP seminar series</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other options (Biochemistry, Genetics, cell biology) are possible depending on prior coursework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>*PHSL 5101 Medical Physiology with additional 1 credit seminar based on reading the literature related to the Med Physiology class.</td>
<td>3+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*PHSL 5095 IBP seminar series</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(BTHX 5000, BIOC 8401) Bioethics</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(PHSL 8220) Late Breaking Discoveries in Biomedical Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(PHSL 5094) 2nd and 3rd Laboratory Rotation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>(or PHSL 5094) Special topics/ Seminar Series</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other options are possible depending on prior coursework

*This course for graduate students will include weekly meetings with a graduate faculty member for each system (e.g., CV, respiratory, etc.) which will cover current literature on a selected disease state for that system. This could be a “journal club” format that develops critical thinking skills and reinforces concepts covered in the Cell Physiology course but at the “systems” level.

**Rotations**

Lab rotations should be taken very seriously since by the end of summer of Year 1, students must choose a laboratory for thesis work. Hence, in the Fall of year 1 students need to acquaint themselves of all possible lab rotation possibilities

**Preliminary Written Exam (PWE)**

This exam will be given within 2 weeks of completion of the Spring Semester. It will be essay format, testing the student’s ability to apply concepts learned in the core courses and integrate these concepts into the ‘big picture.’ Courses covered in the written preliminary exam include: PHSL 5700 Cell Physiology (or ANSC 5700), PHSL 5101 Medical Physiology, and the additional seminar based on reading the literature related to the Med Physiology class in the Spring of year 1.

**Summer**

Students do not typically register during the summer but must finish all rotations **and select a thesis lab and advisor** in order to receive their stipend. No summer registration results in a ~$75 drop in pay per paycheck.
YEAR 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Supporting program/minor</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting program/minor</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special topics/ Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Supporting program/minor</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting program/minor</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special topics/ Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

File Thesis Committee Selection/Degree Program with Graduate School
Schedule Preliminary Oral Exam with Graduate School

*Preliminary Oral Exam (POE)* This exam will be based on the *Thesis Proposal* but the student will be expected to address any and all questions requiring the student to utilize the knowledge gained from their coursework. A Written Thesis Proposal in “NIH NRSA” format will also be required.

Summer

Research

Submit Thesis Proposal Form to Graduate School

YEAR 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PHSL 8888 (Thesis Credits)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PHSL 8888 (Thesis Credits)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Give Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEARS 4 and 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHSL 8444</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Give Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Final Thesis Defense with written thesis no later than end of Year 5*
Some Graduate Course Options

**Molecular/Cellular Biology Options**

**BIOL 4003 - Genetics**  
(3.0 cr; Prereq- [GCD 3022] or BIOL 3061 or BIOL 4331, any CBS major or major in animal science or applied plant science or BA biology or BA microbiology or nutrition or physiology or biology/society/environment) or #; fall, spring, summer, every year)  
Introduction to the nature of genetic information, its transmission from parents to offspring, its expression in cells/organisms, and its course in populations.

**BIOL 4004 - Cell Biology**  
(3.0 cr; Prereq- [BIOL 3061 or BIOL 4331 or BIOL 4332], any CBS major or major in animal science or applied plant science or BA biology or BA microbiology or nutrition or physiology or biology/society/environment) or #; fall, spring, summer, every year)  

**BIOC 4331 - Biochemistry I: Structure, Catalysis, and Metabolism in Biological Systems**  
(4.0 cr; Prereq- [BIOL 1002 or BIOL 1009 or BIOL 2003 or equiv], [CHEM 2302 or equiv]) or #; fall, spring, every year)  
Advanced survey of structure/catalysis, metabolism/bioenergetics.

**BIOC 4332 - Biochemistry II: Molecular Mechanisms of Signal Transduction and Gene Expression**  
(4.0 cr; Prereq- 4331 or #; spring, every year)  
Advanced survey of molecular biology, mechanisms of gene action, and biological regulation.

* 4000 level courses above only by permission of DGS and advisor

**BIOC 5001 - Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology**  
(5.0 cr; Prereq- under grad course in biochemistry, #; fall, every year)  
Integrated course in biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, and developmental biology.

**BIOC 6021 - Biochemistry**  
(3.0 cr; Prereq- general biology, organic chemistry, #; intended for MBS students; fall, spring, summer, every year)  

**GCD 5036 - Molecular Cell Biology**  
(3.0 cr; Prereq- Biol 4004 or #; sr or grad student recommended; fall, every year)  
Modern, integrative approaches combining cell/molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics to investigate cell organization/function. Membranes, signaling, extracellular matrix, secretion, endocytosis, cytoskeleton, nucleus. Analysis of scientific papers to illustrate new concepts in and experimental approaches to cell organization/function.

**Statistics Options**

**STAT 5021 - Statistical Analysis**  
(4.0 cr; Prereq- ANSC 2211, ESPM 3012, STAT 3011; Prereq- =: 3011; College algebra or #; Stat course recommended; fall, spring, every year)  
Intensive introduction to statistical methods for graduate students needing statistics as a research technique.

**PUBH 6414 - Biostatistical Methods I**  
(3.0 cr; Prereq- Public Health [MPH or certificate] student or [environmental health [MS or PhD] or health journalism MA or health informatics [MS or PhD]] major or #; A-F only, fall, spring, summer, offered when feasible)  
**PUBH 6451 - Biostatistics II**
(4.0 cr; Prereq-[[6420, 6450] or [6414, 6415]] with grade of at least B, health sciences grad student) or #; spring, every year). Two-way ANOVA, interactions, repeated measures, general linear models. Logistic regression for cohort and case-control studies. Loglinear models, contingency tables, Poisson regression, survival data, Kaplan-Meier methods, proportional hazards models.

**Supporting Program/Minor Courses Options**

**Biomedical Engineering**

**BMEN 5001 - Advanced Biomaterials**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-3301 or MatS 3011 or grad student or #; A-F or Aud, fall, every year) Commonly used biomaterials. Chemical/physical aspects. Practical examples from such areas as cardiovascular/orthopedic applications, drug delivery, and cell encapsulation. Methods used for chemical analysis and for physical characterization of biomaterials. Effect of additives, stabilizers, processing conditions, and sterilization methods.

**BMEN 5041 - Tissue Engineering**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-[IT upper div or grad student or med student or #; fall, spring, every year) Fundamentals of wound healing and tissue repair; characterization of cell-matrix interactions; case study of engineered tissues, including skin, bone marrow, liver, vessel, and cartilage; regulation of biomaterials and engineered tissues.

**BMEN 5101 - Advanced Bioelectricity and Instrumentation**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-[IT upper div, grad student] or #; spring, offered when feasible) Instrumentation, computer systems, and processing requirements for clinical physiological signals. Electrode characteristics, signal processing, and interpretation of physiological events by ECG, EEG, and EMG. Measurement of respiration and blood volume/flow.

**BMEN 5102 - Bioelectric Measurements and Therapeutic Devices II**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-5101 or #; spring, every year) Theory/application of electrical stimulation in areas of therapeutic/functional neuromuscular stimulation and pain control, cardiac pacing, defibrillation, tissue healing, and electrotherapy. Safety of electric fields. Electrical tissue impedance measurements.

**BMEN 5351 - Cell Engineering**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-2501 or 5501], CSCI 1107, [Math 2243 or Math 2373], [IT upper div or grad student or #]; fall, spring, offered when feasible) Engineering approaches to cell-related phenomena important to cell/tissue engineering. Receptor/ligand binding. Trafficking/signaling processes. Applications to cell proliferation, adhesion, and motility. Cell-matrix interactions.

**Physiology Courses**

**PHSL 4021 - Advanced Physiology and Bioengineering: Bionic Human**
(3.0 cr; Prereq-3061 or 3063 or 5061 or #; A-F only, spring, every year) "Six million dollar man" theme used to present physiology of different organ systems. Human organs versus advanced synthetic devices. Artificial heart, kidney, lung. Eye versus digital camera. Artificial intelligence of pattern recognition. Web-based course.

**PHSL 5095 - Problems in Physiology**
(1.0 - 5.0 cr [max 20.0 cr]; Prereq-#; fall, spring, summer, every year) Individualized study in physiology. Students address selected problem through library or lab research, supervised by physiology faculty.

**PHSL 5444 - Muscle**
(3.0 cr; =BIOC 5444]; Prereq-3061 or 3071 or 5061 or BioC 3021 or BioC 4331 or #; spring, every year) Muscle membranes: structures, mechanisms, and physiological roles of channels/pumps. Muscle contraction: force generation by actin/myosin.
PHSL 5510 - Advanced Cardiac Physiology and Anatomy (Short Course)
(2.0 - 3.0 cr [max 2.0 cr]; Prereq-#; spring, every year) Fundamental concepts, advanced topics related to clinical/biomedical cardiac physiology. Lectures, laboratories, workshops, anatomical dissections. Intense, one week course.

PHSL 5511 - Advanced Neuromuscular Junction Physiology (Short Course)
(2.0 - 3.0 cr [max 2.0 cr]; Prereq-#; summer, every year) Fundamental concepts and advanced topics related to clinical/biomedical aspects of neuromuscular junction physiology. Lectures, laboratories, workshops, anatomical dissections. Intense, one week course.

PHSL 8222 - Central Regulation of Autonomic Function
(3.0 cr; =[NSC 8222]; Prereq-NSC 5561 or #; A-F or Aud) Neural/hormonal sensory pathways affecting central autonomic nuclei involved in maintenance of homeostasis. Current research on physiological control systems at cellular, organ, and integrative levels. Offered fall of odd-numbered years.

PHSL 8310 - Advanced Topics in Cellular Physiology
(1.0 cr [max 4.0 cr]; Prereq-#; fall, spring, every year) Discussion of primary research publications. Topics vary by semester

Supporting Program Course options

“Designer” pharmacology course (Katz has details) 2-3 credits

GCD 4134 - Endocrinology
(3.0 cr; Prereq-Biol 3211 or Biol/BioC 3021 or BioC 4331 or #) Survey of structure and function of invertebrate and vertebrate endocrine systems.

CMB 8344 - Mechanisms of Hormone Action
(2.0 cr; Prereq-Course in biochemistry or cell biology or #; fall, even years) Mechanisms of hormone/cytokine action. Focuses on major signal transduction/apoptosis. Topics incorporate pharmacology, biochemistry, and cell biology of hormone action in relevant physiological systems. Lectures on basic principles. Specialized lectures. Discussion of primary literature.

NSC 5540 - Advanced Survey of Biomedical Neuroscience (Short Course)
(2.0 cr; Prereq-#; intended for members of biomedical community or students with advanced scientific backgrounds; summer, every year) Current topics in biomedical neuroscience, accompanied by supporting, fundamental concepts. Intensive, one week course.
Degree Progress, Forms, and Exams

**MASTER'S DEGREE**

**Information for Master’s Degree**

Go to [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/masters/index.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/masters/index.html) for the latest information on all Master’s Degree related procedures. Click on the appropriate Master’s Degree Plan: Master’s Plan A (with thesis), Master’s Plan B (without thesis) to obtain all needed forms.

**Master’s Degree Forms Process Chart:** This chart provides information on the forms and the order in which they should be submitted for a successful and timely completion of the Master’s Degree program.
- Applicable to all students pursuing a Master’s Degree either Plan A (with research) or Plan B (without research).

**Master’s Degree Program Transmittal Form**

- **IBP Department Graduate Program Policy:** In an effort to ensure students are making timely progress on their degrees, a hold will be placed on your record preventing you from registering if this form is not submitted after completing 20 credits. This hold will remain there until the Degree Program Form has been submitted or until you have spoken with the Director of Graduate Studies.
  - This form is used to assign the committee for the final exam.
  - Takes 6-8 weeks to be approved by the Graduate School.
  - Form can be downloaded from Graduate School’s website at: [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/masters.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/masters.html)

**Change of Status / Readmission Application**

- Students admitted as a Master’s Degree candidate, must file a “Change of Status/Readmission” application to indicate a change of degree objective, after passing the Preliminary Written Examination (PWE), in order to become a PhD candidate.
- **DO NOT CHOOSE AN EFFECTIVE TERM OF SUMMER** -- students are REQUIRED to register for the effective term of the change. If you have an effective term of summer, you have to register for that term (otherwise you’ll become inactive from the Graduate School).
  - You can register for GRAD 999, if the effective term for your Change of Status Application is summer.
- Submit Change of Status / Readmission application online with the Graduate School ([http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/index.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/index.html)).
PhD DEGREE

Information for Doctoral Degree

Go to: [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/doctoral/index.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/doctoral/index.html) for the latest information on all PhD Degree related procedures. Click on “PhD/EdD Degree” to obtain access to all needed forms.

- **Doctoral Degree Forms Process Chart**: Information on the forms and the order in which they should be submitted for a successful and timely completion of the doctoral degree program.
  - Applicable to all students pursuing a doctoral degree.

After all coursework is nearly completed, including successful completion of the PWE, 12 non-PHSL graduate credits, and three rotations, then the student must file a:

**PhD Degree Program Transmittal Form**

- Filed after 4 semesters** have been completed (as soon as the coursework for the PhD is known, usually during Spring Semester of the second year).
  - **IBP Department Graduate Program Policy**: In an effort to ensure students are making timely progress on their degrees, a hold will be placed on the student’s record preventing them from registering if this form is not submitted after completing 4 semesters. This hold will remain there until the Degree Program Form has been submitted or until the student has spoken with the Director of Graduate Studies.

- **This form is also used to assign the committee for the Preliminary Oral Examination (POE).**
- Takes 6-8 weeks to be approved by the Graduate School.
- Form can be downloaded from Graduate School’s website at: [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html)

More information about PhD Degree Requirements can be found in the Graduate School Catalog ([http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/grad/index.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/grad/index.html))

**Preliminary Oral Examination (POE) & Doctoral Thesis Credits (AEM 8888)**

- **Before the POE can be scheduled**, students must have the PhD Degree Program Form and the Preliminary Written Exam Report on file at Graduate School. Allow 6-8 weeks for the PhD Degree Program Form and the Preliminary Written Exam Report to be approved.
  - Both forms can be downloaded on the Graduate School’s website: [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html)

- To schedule the POE, submit the Scheduling Form found on the Graduate School’s website at: [http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html)

- In order to register for Doctoral Thesis Credits (PHSL 8888) students must have completed the Preliminary Oral Examination

**Thesis Proposal Form**

- This form should be filed soon after the student passes the Preliminary Oral Examination (POE).**
  - **IBP Department Graduate Program Policy**: In an effort to ensure students are making
timely progress on their degrees, a hold will be placed on your record preventing you from registering if this form is not submitted after completing the POE. This hold will remain there until the Thesis Proposal Form has been submitted or until you have spoken with the Director of Graduate Studies.

- This form is used to assign the committee for the final oral exam.
- Form can be downloaded on the Graduate School’s website at: http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/forms/doctoral.html
Preliminary Written Examination (PWE) Specifics

Overview and Purpose
The PWE exam will be given within 2-4 weeks of completion of the Spring Semester. It will be essay style format, testing the student’s ability to apply concepts learned in the core courses and integrate these concepts into the ‘big picture.’ Courses covered in the written preliminary exam include: PHSL 5700 Cell Physiology (or ANSC 5700), PHSL 5101 Medical Physiology, and the additional seminar based on reading the literature related to the Med Physiology class in the Spring of year 1. By studying for and taking the PWE, students are afforded an opportunity to integrate their primary knowledge base. Unsatisfactory performance on the PWE may result in the student leaving the PhD program, or modification of the student’s PhD program, including a re-take of the PWE.

Process
Exam questions in short and long essay format covering PHSL 5700 Cell Physiology (or ANSC 5700), PHSL 5101 Medical Physiology, and the additional seminar based on reading the literature related to the Med Physiology class in the Spring of year 1 will take place in the early summer (within 2-4 weeks of completion of the Spring Semester). The PWE takes place over 2-4 days and usually has both a morning and afternoon session. Students are given the specific PWE format and general question areas as well as exam timing about a month before the PWE.

All PWE questions are graded by the graduate faculty member that wrote the question, and often by one or two other faculty members as well. Students can fail individual questions but cannot fail the exam as a whole, as judged by the DGS and assistant DGS. For each section (specific area) students will often be asked to answer X out of Y questions, where Y is greater than X.
Preliminary Oral Examination (POE) Specifics

Purpose
The Preliminary Oral Examination (POE) must be passed before a student achieves candidacy for the PhD degree. Students usually take the exam at the end of the Fall semester or during the Spring semester of their second year. There are four objectives of the POE in IBP:

- To evaluate a student’s knowledge of physiology in their general area of interest and to test the student’s ability to integrate this knowledge with other areas of physiology;
- To evaluate the student’s capacity to think creatively and communicate effectively in both oral and written presentations;
- To provide students with a unique learning experience in written and oral communication and to foster development and expression of scientific creativity.
- To ensure that students have thesis committee and thesis proposal, and that the thesis committee agrees to the thesis proposal before the student commits to their thesis research.

Process
The DGS and the student’s advisor will help the student to familiarize themselves with guidelines of the Preliminary Examination. Briefly, the process is as follows:

Prelim Committee. The student establishes a Prelim Committee consisting of a minimum of five faculty members (at least four from the IBP Department and one cognate member from outside the IBP Department). The Chair of the Prelim Committee must be a member of the Graduate Committee. A graduate student representative, selected by the student, is present at all functions as a non-voting participant. To avoid conflict of interest, the student’s Thesis Advisor cannot be a member of the Prelim Committee.

Research Proposal. The student writes a research proposal according to the guidelines of an National Institutes of Health (NIH) pre-doctoral fellowship (see: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-207.html). The student, in consultation with their advisor, selects a topic and develops the proposal. Its scope and area should be suitable for a PhD thesis. The selected topic may represent the student’s planned PhD thesis research. The proposal should contain a hypothesis, specific aims, sufficient background and preliminary data to justify the work, and a general outline of the experimental plan to accomplish the aims. The proposal should be distributed to the Thesis Committee at least one week before the meeting to allow time for committee members to digest the information.

Input from advisors
The Graduate Committee is aware that there may be some confusion regarding how much input students may receive from advisors and/or other faculty in developing the research proposal. The primary objective of the advisor is to foster the development of scientific creativity and expression and to provide a unique learning experience in written and oral communication. Other objectives are to evaluate a student’s knowledge in their area of interest, to assess the student’s ability to integrate this knowledge to other areas of physiology, and to judge the student’s capacity to think creatively and communicate effectively.

Students should exercise originality and independence in preparing their research proposal. Although proposed experiments and designs should originate with the student, each student is encouraged to seek critical input from their advisor, committee members, other faculty and students. It is acceptable for
others to comment on the rationale and justification of the hypothesis, the clarity of the writing, as well as the feasibility of the proposed experimental design, techniques and interpretation of the results. *It is not appropriate for a student to copy or include specific aims and experiments that are part of a grant proposal developed previously by the advisor.*

**Oral Seminar.** The student presents a thesis proposal seminar based on the written research proposal. The seminar is open to all members of the IBP Department, the Prelim Committee and other interested individuals. The presentation generally lasts 40-45 minutes and is followed by a discussion in which all present may participate. Afterwards, the public is excused, and the student’s POE committee further questions the student, and then the student is excused and the POE committee votes to Pass the student or pursue other courses of action.

The student’s POE Committee typically serves as the Doctoral Thesis Committee. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the exam with the POE Committee members and the Graduate School.

The following regulations apply to the Preliminary Oral Exam:
- The POE determines whether the student has mastered the material in their major and minor/supporting fields at a level the committee deems appropriate for advancement to doctoral candidacy. Thus, the examination is not restricted to a discussion of the research proposal, but will include questions related to coursework in the major and minor/supporting fields.
- The Chair of the POE Committee is responsible for the conduct of the exam, ensuring that the line of questioning is appropriate as well as observing Graduate School procedures. Following the seminar, the Prelim Committee meets with the student for further questioning. In addition to addressing issues related to the written research proposal and seminar, questioning will also address the student’s general knowledge of physiology, including both molecular and integrative aspects, using the research proposal as a point of reference. The POE Committee then determines the outcome: Pass, Conditional Pass (which will require remedial action), or Fail.

Passing the Preliminary Oral Examination constitutes official candidacy for a PhD degree. There are no further examinations until the final oral defense of the dissertation.

Failing the Preliminary Oral Examination may result in either a recommendation to repeat the exam, or to terminate graduate studies with or without completion of the MS degree.
Determination of Student’s Progress

A PhD student is deemed to be making satisfactory progress by completing most or all of their coursework, submitting the PWE and successful completing the Preliminary Oral Examination (POE) within the first two academic years.

By the end of the second academic year, but prior to the POE, a PhD student must file a Degree Program Transmittal (see page 24), which is the formal statement of the student’s course work and thesis committee composition.

After the second academic year, satisfactory progress is determined by the student’s Thesis Advisor. The Thesis Advisor will inform both the student and the DGS if there are problems. A PhD student in the IBP Graduate Program is expected to earn their degree within four-to-six years from the date of the initial registration in the Graduate School. A PhD student is required to meet with their Thesis Committee at least once each year, beginning with the POE.

Meeting with the committee for the POE and final defense constitutes two of the required meetings. During each intervening year, the student must schedule a meeting with the Thesis Committee. The student’s Thesis Advisor must provide the DGS with a summary of the committee’s opinion regarding the student’s progress. The summary must also indicate the date the meeting occurred and the committee members in attendance. The lack of satisfactory progress as defined above is due cause for termination from the IBP Graduate Program.
Thesis Research

The thesis research should make an original and significant contribution to the student’s chosen field of research. The overall scope of the work will vary depending on the research area, but it should be of sufficient quality, depth and originality to be published in peer reviewed scientific journals. The Thesis Committee, together with the student and Thesis Advisor, determine when the research is of sufficient quality and quantity to be appropriate for the PhD thesis defense.

Selection of a Thesis Advisor.

By the end of their first year, each student should have selected a Thesis Advisor from the IBP faculty to guide their thesis research. This selection would have been based on common research interests, and the faculty mentoring style and overall atmosphere of the laboratory. The Thesis Advisor must have a graduate faculty appointment in IBP and must agree to the mentoring relationship.

Thesis Committee.

It is the responsibility of the student to select a thesis committee in conjunction with their advisor and the DGS and to organize annual thesis committee meetings.

This committee is intended to monitor progress and help the student in several ways: 1) help and evaluate the student’s POE; 2) develop a research program suitable for obtaining the PhD degree; 3) provide guidance during the course of the research and offer suggestions for future directions; 4) ensure that the quality and quantity of research is suitable for obtaining the PhD; 5) help the student and Thesis Advisor determine when sufficient research has been completed to prepare the dissertation.

Ideally, the Thesis Committee is formed soon after the student passes the Preliminary Exam. The first meeting should be held when the research is still in its early stages. Although the length of committee meetings can vary greatly, it is recommended that approximately 2 hours be set aside for each committee meeting.

Role of the Thesis Advisor and the Thesis Committee. Although mentoring styles vary tremendously amongst faculty and depending on the student, a few general comments may be helpful. The PhD research may be considered a collaboration between the student and Thesis Advisor. It is appropriate for the Thesis Advisor to provide substantial input and advice regarding development of the research plan, interpretation of results, and determination of next steps. Although this is a collaborative effort, the student should be the driving force. The committee should provide oversight and feedback, and should help the student and Thesis Advisor in development and subsequent modification of the overall research plan. The committee should not require the student and Thesis Advisor to conduct specific experiments; rather, it should serve in an advisory capacity, and ultimately pass judgment as to whether the research and written thesis are sufficient for obtaining a PhD degree. The student is encouraged to seek input from individual committee members outside the scheduled committee meetings.

Forming the Thesis Committee. The committee must be formally established with the DGS prior to the first meeting. The IBP Graduate Program Assistant is available to help students fill out the necessary forms. The Graduate School policy states that the Thesis Committee must have at least four members, three of which are regular members of the IBP graduate faculty and one member who has a graduate faculty appointment outside IBP. Students are strongly encouraged to include a fifth committee member so that the committee will be sufficient in number in the event that one member cannot attend the thesis defense. The committee must have a chair (student’s Thesis Advisor, except for the thesis defense).
Subsequent Committee Meetings. Subsequent committee meetings should be held at least once a year or more frequently if considered desirable by the student, Thesis Advisor, or Thesis Committee. The goal of these meetings is for the student to present recent progress and for the committee to provide input to the student and Thesis Advisor as to whether satisfactory progress is being made, if the student is on course, and ultimately to help the student and Thesis Advisor decide when sufficient research has been conducted for writing the PhD dissertation.

One week prior to the meeting, the student should distribute to the committee a progress report that includes the hypothesis, specific aims (updated as needed from the original proposal) and research findings obtained since the last meeting. In this progress report, student should include any publications, abstracts or presentations they produced/submitted that are relevant to their thesis research. The student should begin with an oral presentation (PowerPoint recommended) reviewing the material in the progress report. This should be followed by a discussion and suggestions from the committee. The meeting should end by discussing next steps, goals and setting an approximate date for the next meeting.

Reports of Committee Meeting. The chair of the Thesis Committee can submit a written report to the DGS within two weeks after the meeting. This report should be signed by both the Thesis Advisor and the student and should be distributed to all committee members. The report should indicate the date of the meeting, committee members in attendance (and absent), and a written narrative describing the events that took place at the meeting. For the first meeting, this report should be sufficiently detailed as to indicate what has been proposed and whether it is feasible and sufficient as thesis research. For subsequent meetings, it should specify progress and if this is sufficient relative to the goals set at the last meeting. It should include any deficits that were identified and recommendations of the committee. This report should also include goals to be accomplished prior to the next meeting and the approximate date of the next meeting.
Roles and Responsibilities of the Thesis/Dissertation Advisor

Faculty and graduate students share complementary responsibilities in the maintenance of academic standards and the development of high quality graduate programs.

These are basic roles and responsibilities guidelines that advisors follow:

- Provide clear direction for the requirements each student must meet and policies of the graduate program.
- Advise graduate students as to how to develop a program plan, including appropriate course work, research or project activity, and available resources.
- Ensure that each graduate student initiates thesis or dissertation research in a timely fashion.
- Provide training and oversight in creative activities, research rigor, theoretical and technical aspects of the thesis or dissertation research, and professional integrity.
- Create supervisory relations with students that stimulate and encourage students to learn creatively and independently, and respect the academic freedom for students to express options that may differ from those of faculty.
- Encourage graduate students to stay abreast of the literature and cutting-edge ideas in the field.
- Help graduate students to develop professional skills in writing reports, papers, grant proposals and evaluating manuscripts and papers; encourage participation in professional meetings; help establish professional networks/professional contacts for the benefit of students; to develop interviewing skills.
- Provide regular feedback on the progress of graduate students toward degree completion, including feedback on research or creative activities, coursework, teaching, and provide constructive criticism if the progress does not meet expectations.
- Acknowledge student contributions in research presented at conferences, in professional publications, or in applications for copyrights and patents.
- Help graduate students develop into successful professionals and colleagues, including encouraging students to participate and disseminate results of research or creative activities in the appropriate scholarly or public forums.
- Facilitate career development, including advising graduate students on appropriate job and career options, as well as on the preparation of application materials for appropriate fellowship, scholarship, and other relevant opportunities.
- Write letters of reference for appropriate fellowship, scholarship, award, and job opportunities.
- Provide for supervision and advising of graduate students when the Faculty Advisor is on leave or extended absence.
Roles and Responsibilities of the Student

These are some basic roles and responsibilities guidelines that students should follow:

• Adhere to and take responsibility for learning university and academic unit rules, procedures, and policies applicable to graduate study, research or creative activities.
• Meet university and academic unit requirements for degree completion.
• Recognize that in many disciplines, the Faculty Advisor provides the intellectual and instructional environment in which the student conducts research, and may, through access to teaching and research funds, also provide the student with financial support.
• Respect faculty member’s need to allocate their time and other resources in ways that are academically and personally productive.
• Devote an appropriate amount of time and energy toward achieving academic excellence and earning an advanced degree in a timely fashion.
• Acknowledge the contributions of the Faculty Advisor and other members of the research team to the student’s work in all publications and conference presentations.
• Follow disciplinary and scholarly codes of ethics in course work, thesis or dissertation research, and in creative activities.
• Practice uncompromising honesty and integrity according to university and federal guidelines in collecting and maintaining data.
• Seek regulatory approval for research in the early stages of thesis or dissertation work where applicable.
• Take initiative to communicate regularly with Faculty Advisor(s) on progress toward completion of the thesis or dissertation.
• Work cooperatively with supervising faculty and Teaching Assistants (TA) to accomplish the tasks set out in TA assignments.
• Give adequate attention to the teaching role by conscientious efforts in planning, preparation, and implementation of TA assignments.
• Achieve an appropriate balance between teaching responsibilities and other essential activities.

Professionalism and Ethics Related Links:

Professional Ethics and Conduct of Research Educational Requirements for Grad Students and Postdocs Teaching Ethics for Research, Scholarship, & Practice (University of Minnesota, State & Federal Policies and Procedures) On Being A Scientist: Responsible Conduct In Research an online book (local copy)
The Thesis Defense

Thesis Preparation, Deadlines and Resources
The final step in obtaining the PhD is writing the thesis, defending it in front of the Thesis Committee, and revising it as specified by the committee. Students must adhere to specified formats and timelines in preparing and defending their thesis. Details are provided in the Graduate Student Handbook at: http://www.grad.umn.edu/gradwriting/.

Upon written completion of the thesis, the PhD candidate takes the final oral examination in defense of their thesis. The final oral exam may take place only after the written thesis has been judged ready for defense by the thesis committee readers. This exam consists of a public seminar in which the candidate presents their thesis and to which the scholarly community is invited. Students must notify IBP staff at least two weeks prior to their thesis defense and provide them with the title, abstract, date, time and location of their thesis defense so appropriate IBP announcements can be prepared.

A closed meeting between the candidate and the thesis Committee immediately follows the thesis presentation. The candidate is then excused and a vote is taken. The final oral exam is limited to the thesis and relevant subject areas.

The Thesis Advisor is responsible for ensuring the inclusion of appropriate modifications and required revisions, if any, in the final thesis. The final oral exam report form will not be signed and submitted to the Graduate school until all revisions have been made.
5. Graduation Information

Graduation Application Deadlines

Graduate School degrees are awarded monthly. To graduate at the end of any given month students must:

• Submit your Graduate School Application for Degree form to a One Stop Student Services Center on or before the first workday of the month. For more information, see the graduate student graduation checklist at onestop.umn.edu/degree_planning/graduation/graduate_checklist.html.
• Complete all other requirements by the last work day of the month.
• Graduating before the end of the term may affect your eligibility for financial aid (work-study, student loans), housing, and other benefits conferred by your student status. Check with the appropriate office, if you have questions on eligibility.
• The Application for Degree form and detailed graduation instructions are available from 316 Johnston Hall. (map online at http://www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/JohH/)

The award of the degree should appear on the transcript within two to three weeks following graduation. The diploma will be mailed from the Registrar’s office four to six weeks after graduation.

Commencement Information

Graduate School commencement ceremonies are held in the fall and spring terms. If you wish to participate in commencement, contact the Graduate School, 316 Johnston Hall, one term in advance of the ceremony. http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/degree_completion/commencement/
Attending a ceremony does not imply that you have officially graduated.

Prior to the Ceremony

Deadline for participation: Graduate students interested in participating in the commencement ceremony must submit their Commencement Attendance Approval Form to the Graduate Student Services and Progress Office, 316 Johnston Hall. Check http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/degree_completion/commencement/ for current deadline dates.

Ordering academic regalia: Students can order academic regalia in person or by phone through the Bookstore in Coffman Memorial Union (625-6000) or Books Underground on the St. Paul Campus (625-3138); or via the Bookstore’s website. Check http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/degree_completion/commencement/ for current deadline dates.
Students can also order regalia during Grad Fest which will be held in the Great Hall in Coffman Memorial Union. See http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/degree_completion/commencement/ for current dates.

**Deadline to order regalia:** Check website for current deadline dates.

**Tickets:** No tickets are required for the ceremony, however, seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Participants or guests with special needs:** Students and/or their guests with special needs must contact Karen Starry (starry@umn.edu) to request accommodations. Check http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/degree_completion/commencement/ for current deadline dates.

While every attempt will be made to provide requested accommodations, please be advised that handicap and wheelchair seating is very limited.

**Guest Accommodations:**
(Check hotels for special U of MN rates.)

Radisson Hotel Metrodome  
615 Washington Avenue SE  
(612) 379-8888

Holiday Inn Metrodome  
1500 Washington Avenue S  
(612) 333-4646

Minneapolis Days Inn-U of MN  
2407 University Avenue SE  
(612) 623-3999

Econo Lodge  
2500 University Avenue SE  
(612) 331-6000

**Change in plans?** If your plans change and you decide not to attend the ceremony, please notify the Graduate School.

Master’s students: gsmast@umn.edu  
Doctoral students: gsdoc@umn.edu  
Faculty: starry@umn.edu.
List of IBP Grad Program Student Tuition and Fees:

All numbers are approximate:

BOLD indicates that the student must pay the Fee

Tuition:

Graduate School Tuition $5,606

Fees:

1. University fee $ 600
2. Transportation fee $ 17
3. Student Services fee $ 350
4. Stadium fee $ 12.50
5. Long Term Disability coverage $ 40 (Error)
6. Grad & Prof Student Assembly $ 12
7. AHC Student Health Benefit $1,164
8. GA Health Plan Base Premium $ 88
9. International Student Fees $??

Total fees: $2,283.50

Total tuition and fees: $7,889.50

Total paid by Graduate student each semester: $479.50

No summer registration will mean a ~$75 drop in pay per pay period.
Health Insurance for Graduate Assistants

All new and continuing students holding a fellowship or at least a 25% graduate assistantship will need to complete an application for coverage by the graduate assistant medical plan. See Molly Rochford, IBP Human Resource Specialist, 6-120 Jackson Hall for an Application Packet. Submit the Enrollment Form as soon as possible to the Graduate Assistant Insurance Office, N323 Boynton Health Service, 625-6936. Students who hold at least a 50% graduate assistantship during both semesters of the academic year, will be covered by the health insurance plan during the following summer, as well. When you register, students must provide the name of their health insurance provider and their policy number on their registration form, or they will automatically be charged for a University-sponsored hospitalization plan, which is not the same as the plan for graduate assistants. Read the Class Schedule and the graduate assistant health insurance Application Packet for more information. Should a student suffer an injury while fulfilling their duties as a graduate assistant, they must complete an Employee Incident Report form to report the injury and file for worker’s compensation. This must be done as soon as physically possible following the injury. Further information on the policy go to www.fpd.finop.umn.edu/groups/ppd/documents/policy/workers_comp.cfm, or see Molly Rochford, IBP Human Resource Specialist, 6-120 Jackson Hall for a copy of the form.
Serving as a Graduate Assistant and Related Financial Matters

Until the date student-advisor pairings are announced, students without their own external or internal fellowships will be paid with fellowship funds provided by the IBP Department. Students do not incur any obligation other than to be enrolled, take a full course load (13-14 course credits or as advised by the DGS) and identify top choices for the advisor.

After a student joins a thesis research lab with a thesis advisor, the student will be paid entirely from their Thesis Advisor’s research grant(s). Students continue taking courses and performing research related to the project funded by the grant.

Paychecks are issued every other Wednesday
To have your pay deposited directly into your bank account, please complete a Direct Deposit Authorization Form. Students who opt for direct deposit can view their pay statements on line at http://hrss.umn.edu/. For student’s who do not opt for direct deposit, paychecks will be put in their mailbox. All payroll, health and tuition benefit questions should be directed to Molly Rochford, IBP Human Resource Specialist, 6-120 Jackson Hall, (612) 625-3687.
Laboratory Safety Training

New graduate students in the IBP Graduate Program must complete two-hours of lab safety training. This training will be offered twice at the start of each fall semester.

Anyone not attending a training session will not be allowed access to the Nils Hasselmo Hall labs or the Shepherd Laboratories.

Dates for training sessions can be found at: http://www.dehs.umn.edu/training.htm

Responsible Conduct of Research

The Graduate School mandates that all graduate students receive the equivalent of 8 hours of instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Dates for RCR workshop sessions can be found at the link below: http://cflegacy.research.umn.edu/first/CourseSchedReg.htm.

New graduate students should visit http://www.grad.umn.edu/ethics/ethics_brochure.html. This site is intended to introduce beginning graduate students to RCR concepts; to institutional expectations regarding intellectual honesty and integrity; and to our commitment to provide educational opportunities and resources for students to learn about these topics.

Graduate students in IBP must take at least a formal ethics course related to Biomedical research.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Highlights from The Graduate School - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/faq.html

What is the Graduate School’s registration requirement?
As a Graduate School student you are required to register every fall and spring term to maintain active status up through and including the term in which you will officially complete your degree. Failure to maintain your active status will result in the discontinuation of your student status and require applying for readmission.

What is full time status?
Full time status is 6 or more credits. Some University benefits are reliant upon the registration of at least 6 credits. Students should contact the office providing the benefit to inquire about minimum registration requirements.

What is active status?
Graduate School students maintain active status by registering in the Graduate School every fall and spring term (for any credit amount or course type).

What happens if I don’t maintain active status?
Graduate School students who do not maintain active status are considered to have withdrawn, and their student status is deactivated. Inactive students may not take examinations, submit degree progress paperwork, apply for graduation, or complete their degrees. Inactive students who wish to resume graduate work must apply for readmission to the Graduate School.

I am a doctoral student who has completed all of my coursework, but I have not yet passed my preliminary oral examination and need to maintain my full-time status. What should I register for?
You may register for 6 credits of doctoral pre-thesis credits (xxxx 8666). The Graduate School limits the number of 8666 credits for which a doctoral student may register in any fall, spring, or summer term to 6 credits. The Graduate School will also limit registrations of 8666 to 2 instances and to 12 credits. With graduate program consent, you may register for 8666 up to 4 times, for a total accumulation of 24 credits (of 8666). Programs have the option to restrict 8666 enrollment.

I am done with my coursework and thesis credits (if applicable) and only need to maintain my active status. What should I do?
Graduate School students must register every fall and spring term to maintain active status. Grad 999, a zero-credit, zero-tuition, non-graded registration option is available for those Graduate School students who must register solely to meet the Graduate School’s registration requirement. You should not register for Grad 999 if you hold an assistantship, need to maintain legal visa status, defer loans, receive financial aid, or for any reason other than to meet the Graduate School’s registration requirement.

I am done with my coursework and thesis credits (if applicable) and need to maintain full time status. What should I do?
You have the option to register as an advanced status student by applying for the full time equivalent (FTE) credit (xxxx 8333 (masters) or xxxx 8444 (doctoral)). You must apply for this status each term you wish to hold this benefit. More information is available at
http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/registration/FTE_procedures.html.

What is the maximum credit load the Graduate School allows?
The Graduate School allows registration for up to 18 credits. However, most offices providing tuition benefits will not pay for more than 14 credits. Students should check with the office providing the tuition benefit to determine the number of credits that will be covered.

I didn’t register last term and now my status is inactive. What should I do?
You must apply for re-admission through the Graduate Office of Admissions by completing a Change of Status/Readmission Application (http://www.grad.umn.edu/current_students/registration/readmission.html).

END