

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

# BIOLOGY PhD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Coursework:** PhD students must complete 48 credits total. Students entering the program with a Bachelor's degree must complete a minimum of 24 formal coursework credits (at least 18 credits must be 600-level or above). Students entering the program with a Master's degree must complete a minimum of 18 formal coursework credits (at least 14 credits must be 600-level or above). The remaining credits may be a combination of BIO 999 (*Dissertation*) and/or formal coursework credits. ALL graduate students must participate in BIO 705 (*Graduate Research Seminars*) every semester. BIO 705 does NOT count toward the Graduate Seminar courses requirement.

- Year 1**
- Complete at least 24 credits, including at least 1 Graduate Seminar course.
  - Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit).
  - Rotation students: Complete at least 2 rotations (required). A 3rd rotation is advised, but optional if the student identifies a home lab after only 2 rotations (home lab Advisor must also agree to this). For each rotation, register for BIO 610 (*Graduate Research Laboratory*) for 2 credits. Select permanent Research Advisor upon completion of last rotation.
  - Non-rotating students: Select permanent Research Advisor by the end of the first semester.

- Year 2**
- Complete remaining credits requirement (48 total), including at least 1 Graduate Seminar course.
  - Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit).
  - Hold first Research Committee meeting by the end of October (or March for Spring admits).
  - Prepare for and schedule Qualifying Exams, to take place by the end of the Spring (or 4th) semester. Fifth committee member is required for the Qualifying Exams.

- Year 3 and later**
- Complete graduate seminar courses requirement (may be taken for 0 credit).
  - Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 0 credit).
  - If all coursework requirements are met, register for GRD 998 (*Degree in Progress*).
  - Hold full Research Committee meeting annually through graduation.

### **Additional Requirements**

- Submit at least one manuscript for publication to a peer-reviewed journal before dissertation is submitted to the Syracuse University Graduate School for publication.
- Attend and present research findings at a scientific conference.

- Financial**
- PhD residency normally will not exceed five years. To qualify for Year 5 support, in April of Year 4 you must submit an outline of your dissertation and a plan for completing the PhD program.

### **PhD RESEARCH COMMITTEE (4 members)**

Formed by October 1st of Year 2 (or March 1st for Spring admits). Hold first meeting within 30 days of formation.

- Research Advisor
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member (may be from another department or institution)

### **QUALIFYING EXAM COMMITTEE (5 members)**

Scheduled during the 4th semester. One member of the committee is designated as the Exam Chair.

- Research Advisor (does not vote)
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member (may be from another department or institution)
- One Additional Faculty Member (selected by Research Committee)

### **PhD DISSERTATION DEFENSE COMMITTEE (6 members)**

- Oral Exam Chair (selected by student/Research Committee; must be a tenure or tenure-track Syracuse University faculty member from outside the Biology department)
- Research Advisor
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member (may be from another department or institution)
- One Additional Faculty Member

## BIOLOGY MS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Coursework:** MS students must complete 30 credits total, including a minimum of 24 formal coursework credits (at least 12 credits must be 600-level or above) and 6 credits of BIO 997 (*Master's Thesis*). ALL graduate students must participate in BIO 705 (*Graduate Research Seminars*) every semester. BIO 705 does NOT count toward the Graduate Seminar courses requirement. Rotations are not required for the MS degree.

- Year 1**
- Complete at least 24 credits, including at least 1 Graduate Seminar course (and 6 credits of BIO 997 during the Summer semester).
  - Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit).
- Year 2**
- Complete remaining credits requirement (30 total), including at least 1 Graduate Seminar course.
  - Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit).
  - Hold first Research Committee meeting by the end of October (or March for Spring admits).
- Year 3**
- Enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 0 credit).
  - If all coursework requirements are met, register for GRD 998 (*Degree in Progress*).
  - Hold full Research Committee meeting annually through graduation.
- Financial**
- MS residency normally will not exceed three years. To qualify for Year 3 support, in April of Year 2, you must submit an outline of your thesis and a plan for completing the MS program.

### MS RESEARCH COMMITTEE (3 members)

Formed by October 1st of Year 2 (or March 1st for Spring admits). Hold first meeting within 30 days of formation.

- Research Advisor
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member (may be from another department or institution)

### MS THESIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE (4 members)

- Oral Exam Chair (selected by student/Research Committee; must be a tenure or tenure-track Syracuse University faculty member; may be from inside or outside the Biology department)
- Research Advisor
- Faculty Member
- Faculty Member (may be from another department or institution)