

**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. Graduate students must enroll in BIO 705 each semester for their first three years. They must also enroll in BIO 700 each semester for their first two years. BIO 705 and BIO 700 do 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 and BIO 700 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit each).
  - 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 and BIO 700 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit each).
  - 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).
  - In third year: enroll in BIO 705 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 0 credit); In fifth year: present a research seminar in BIO 705 (do not enroll after third year)
  - 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 (5 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)

**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

# **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*). Graduate students must enroll in BIO 705 each semester for their first three years. They must also enroll in BIO 700 each semester for their first two years. BIO 705 and BIO 700 do 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 and BIO 700 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit each).
- Year 2**
- Complete remaining credits requirement (30 total), including at least 1 Graduate Seminar course.
  - Enroll in BIO 705 and BIO 700 for both the Fall and Spring semesters (for 1 credit each).
  - 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)