

## **Summary of the Integrative Biology graduate program requirements**

The overall goal of these policies is to make expectations uniform and clear, to enable all students to complete their PhD in five years in an orderly and predictable fashion.

### **First years.**

The *Advisory Committee* (major professor plus two other faculty, at least one from IB) needs to meet with incoming students early, ideally before classes start, during the end of summer or in orientation week. Deadline: end of the first week of classes.

### **Second years.**

Need to meet with their *Advisory Committee* fall semester to get advice for the year and preparing for Qualifying Examination QEs (including help in choosing *Qualifying Exam Committee*). The student should give committee a 2-page outline of developing thesis plan including likely questions, hypotheses, and goals a week in advance of this meeting. Deadline: Oct. 1st.

The Application for the Qualifying Examination form must be submitted by Oct. 15th. Students should meet with each QE committee member several times during the academic year, to prepare in the area of study represented by that committee member. QE must be taken by end of spring semester. The Application for Candidacy form, which includes appointing the *Dissertation Committee*, should be submitted as soon as possible after passing the QE, in order to facilitate the following requirement, which the student should begin working on over the summer.

### **Third years.**

The annual meeting requirement for this cohort is discussion/approval of a formal dissertation plan fully attended by the student's newly constituted *Dissertation Committee*. Deadline: November 1st. The plan should be approximately 8 pages and contain goals, hypotheses, and planned methods of data gathering / analysis for each chapter of the dissertation. The committee has the right to reject the plan if insufficient, and require modifications before acceptance.

### **Fourth years and up.**

The annual meeting requirement is to discuss progress with their full *Dissertation Committee*. Deadline: Dec. 1st. Sixth years and up also need to schedule a meeting with the Head Graduate Advisor.

### **Expectation for an IB dissertation.**

The departmental standard is three chapters, each of the quality and weight to allow it to be publishable in a major journal in its field. The ideal dissertation plan would allow these to be completed sequentially, the first chapter setting the stage for the second, etc., allowing the student to have early publications before the job search begins in the fifth year. Ideal goals would be the first chapter completed and submitted for publication (after review by the *Dissertation Committee*) by the end of the third year, the second chapter by the end of the fourth year, and the third chapter by the end of the fifth year.