

Summary of MCBB PhD Student Expectations by Year

Full details can be found in the Graduate Program Guide: <http://www.bu.edu/mcbb/grad-guide>

Annual reports are due in October and are required for students in their second year and up.

Year 1

- Complete three rotations and find a thesis advisor.
- Enroll in graduate classes, as specified in the Graduate Program Guide.
- Serve as a teaching fellow during spring semester and enroll the accompanying pedagogy course.
- Begin Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training: <https://www.bu.edu/research/ethics-compliance/responsible-conduct-of-research/training-programs/rcr-for-doctoral-or-postdoctoral-researchers/>
- Attend the Friday CM/MCBB seminar series.

Year 2































































- Begin forming your faculty committee to take your qualifying exam. Your exam may take place in your 2nd or 3rd year.
- Enroll in graduate classes. Ensure you are on track to complete all required courses, as specified in the Graduate Program Guide.
- Serve as a teaching fellow for at least one semester.
- Complete [RCR](#) training by the end of year 2.
- Attend and present an appropriate seminar series (CM/MCBB, Neuro, ChemBio, EBE, etc.)
- Attend professional development events to enhance skill and career training.







Year 3

- If you haven't already, complete your qualifying exam by the end of your third year.
- Complete any remaining required courses.
- Serve as a teaching fellow if you haven't completed the 2-semester teaching requirement or if funding requires it.
- Attend and present an appropriate seminar series.
- Attend professional development events to enhance skill and career training.
- Present your research at conferences.

Year 4 and beyond

- Have at least one committee meeting each year.
- Complete any remaining required courses.
- Serve as a teaching fellow if you haven't completed the 2-semester teaching requirement or if funding requires it.
- Attend and present an appropriate seminar series.
- Attend professional development events to enhance skill and career training.
- Present your research at conferences.
- Plan a timeline to graduation. Review the dissertation guidelines and timetable in the Graduate Program Guide. A prospectus is required ~9 months prior to the proposed graduation date and may be discussed at a committee meeting.

	Y1 Fall	Y1 Spring	Y2 Fall	Y2 Spring	Y3	Y4	Y5+
Research	Rotations 1-2 	Rotations 2-3 	Thesis Work  Qual Exam <i>completed by the end of Y3</i>   		Thesis Work  Qual Exam or Committee Meeting   	Thesis Work  Yearly Committee Meeting  	Thesis Work  Yearly Committee Meeting   Defend <i>Prospectus due ~9 mo. before defense</i>
Classes	BI 753: Advanced Molecular Biology  MB 721: Graduate Biochemistry 	BI 735: Advanced Cell Biology  1 elective class (optional) 	1 elective class 	1 elective class 			
Teaching		TF  MB 697: Pedagogy Class 	1 additional TF required 				
Professional Development	MB 696: First Year Graduate Seminar in Biology (Fall)  Start RCR training (online + 1 credit Fall class)   PhD Progression      		Complete RCR training   PhD Progression Badges      		PhD Progression Badges      	MB 714: Professional Development for Biology PhDs (optional)   PhD Progression Badges      	
Seminars	MB 583 (Friday CM/MCBB seminar) 	MB 584 (Friday CM/MCBB seminar) 	Attend and present at appropriate seminar series (CM/MCBB, Neuro, ChemBio, etc.) 		Attend and present at a seminar series 	Attend and present at a seminar series 	Attend and present at a seminar series 

 Career Development;  Communication Skills;  Discipline-Specific Knowledge;  Research Skills;  Teaching Skills;  Management and Leadership