

Summary of Biology PhD Student Expectations by Year

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

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

Year 1

- Research
 - CM/Neuro: complete three lab rotations and join research lab by end of year 1
 - EBE: begin research work in consultation with your advisor
- Enroll in graduate classes, as specified in the [Graduate Program Guide](#).
- Serve as a teaching fellow during spring semester and enroll in BI697, the accompanying pedagogy course.
- Begin Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training: <http://bu.edu/biology/rcr-cheat-sheet>.
- Attend the Biology Departmental Seminar series (Mondays) and your research group (EBE, CM, Neuro) weekly seminar (day differs by program area).
- EBE: Once you have identified a project area, you may begin forming your faculty committee to take your qualifying exam.

Year 2

- EBE/CM/ Neuro: If you haven't already, begin forming your Qualifying Exam 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.
- Continue [RCR](#) training.
- Attend the Biology Departmental Seminar series (Mondays) and present in your research group (EBE, CM, Neuro) weekly seminar (day differs by program area).

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 funding requires it.
- Continue [RCR](#) training.
- Attend the Biology Departmental Seminar series (Mondays) and present in your area's weekly seminar (day differs by program area).
- 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 funding requires it.
- Complete [RCR](#) training by the end of year 4.
- Attend the Biology Departmental Seminar series (Mondays) and present in your area's weekly seminar (day differs by program area).
- 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 ~1 year prior to the proposed graduation date and may be discussed at a committee meeting.

In general, the PhD is expected to be completed within seven years. Petitions for extension are possible at the discretion of the DGS and Dean of the Graduate School.