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## 2016-2017

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MMBIO GRADUATE PROGRAMS SUMMARY

The Microbiology and Molecular Biology Department offers two graduate degrees:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Microbiology and Molecular Biology
- Master of Science (MS) in Microbiology and Molecular Biology

The MS and PhD programs emphasize a combination of research experience and interdisciplinary course work. Research emphases include gene regulation, host-microbe recognition processes, virus and phage biology, microbial physiology, immunology, cancer biology, and medical informatics. The PhD degree additionally requires the ability to independently recognize opportune scientific problems and to craft multidimensional research proposals. PhD students are responsible for the creation of a substantial body of research findings, and publication of these findings in prominent scientific journals. Completion of the MS or PhD degree prepares graduates for further study at the PhD or postdoctoral level; or for employment in academic, private-sector, or government-funded research, development and teaching endeavors.
PhD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETE DEGREE
Five years (usual time); eight years (university limit)

CREDIT-HOURS
- PhD after BS: 54 credit-hours total (At least 18 didactic credit-hours, at most 18 research credit-hours, and 18 dissertation credit-hours)
- PhD after MS: 36 credit-hours total (18-coursework & Research, 18-dissertation)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- BIO 503, Research Orientation, 1 credit, offered fall only
- MMBIO 661, Molecular Biology of the Cell, 3 credits, offered fall only
- MMBIO 663, Articulating Science, 2 credits, offered winter only
- MMBIO 665, Genomics 3 credits, offered winter only
- MMBIO 691R, Graduate Seminar, 2 credits (1 per semester), offered fall and winter
  *(Attend every fall & winter semester, but only register for it two times for two total credit hours)*
- MMBIO 692R Research in Progress, 2 credits (1 per semester), offered fall and winter
  *(Attend every fall & winter semester, but only register for it two times for two total credit hours)*
- MMBIO 695R, Research (17-20 credits)
- MMBIO 799R, PhD Dissertation (18 credits)
- Graduate Elective courses, 3-6 credits, as approved by committee
  *(For a listing of MMBIO graduate courses offered, see page 26 in this Handbook)*

Note: Audit courses cannot be counted for enrollment verifications or program credit. For limits on transfer credit, senior credit, post-baccalaureate studies credit, and undergraduate credit, see the current BYU Graduate Catalog.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT
To obtain the PhD degree, the student must generate a substantial body of research findings. The determination of sufficient productivity is left to the advisory committee, as it adheres to the following general guidelines:
- The student is expected to publish multiple first-author papers in reputable peer-reviewed journals prior to the dissertation defense;
- In some cases, the student may have only one first-author publication in a reputable peer-reviewed journal prior to the dissertation defense, as long as significant progress toward a second publication is evident.
- In no case can a student defend his or her dissertation without at least one first-author paper that is either published or in press by the dissertation defense date.

FORMATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The advisory committee advises, directs, and approves the graduate student's program, both the academic work and the research work. Each committee member, not just the chair, is involved in training and mentorship of assigned students. Careful evaluation, rigorous review of student research and instruction, and regularly scheduled meetings can ensure a quality experience. Students should feel free to meet with committee members individually or as a committee as frequently as help and advice are needed. The student is required to take the initiative in the formation of the committee, and to initiate the scheduling of all committee meetings, which will typically take place during the months of November and May.
The student is temporarily assigned to be advised by the graduate coordinator at the time of acceptance into the graduate program. In consultation with the graduate coordinator, the student must choose a permanent graduate advisory committee by the 2nd progress report (May of the first year). Members comprising the advisory committee are selected by the student in consultation with the committee chair (the student’s research advisor), and approved by the graduate coordinator. The advisory committee is formally organized as signatures are recorded on ADV Form 3, Program of Study for Graduate Students. This form is turned in to the graduate secretary.

The PhD advisory committee is comprised of five faculty members:

- 1 chair (faculty research advisor/mentor, typically from the MMBIO department)
- 2 or 3 faculty from MMBIO department
- 1 or 2 faculty from another relevant department

All members of the committee should be present at committee meetings. For progress review meetings, if one member cannot attend, then the student can talk with that member individually to give updates and get a signature, if the advisor approves. However, for the qualifying exam and defense meetings, all members must be present.

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The program of study is a list of classes that meet both the program’s requirements and the student’s personal area of focus and interest. This list is determined by the student with the advisor’s guidance, and is approved by the advisory committee and the graduate coordinator. It is the responsibility of the student and the advisory committee to ensure that all of the prerequisite requirements have been completed.

Students submit these courses on ADV Form 3, Program of Study for Graduate Students. They are due at the time of their 2nd progress review (May of First year). The form is signed by committee members and turned in to the graduate secretary.

If it becomes necessary during the course of a graduate program to alter the course plan, the “Request for Study List Change” ADV Form 3b should be completed, signed, and turned in to the graduate secretary.

Students registering for classes not on their Program of Study list need to get their advisor’s approval.

**SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEWS**

In November and May of each academic year, graduate students meet with their advisory committee in a formal progress review meeting. The student’s advisor conducts the meeting.

The typical student procedure for this review is as follows:

1. Pick up Form A, Graduate Progress Review, from the graduate secretary & answer relevant questions in writing.
2. Schedule the date, time, and location of the meeting with the advisory committee.
3. After the progress review meeting, return the signed Form A to the graduate secretary.

Progress review meetings may serve multiple functions during the first two years:
• **The Program of Study** (see below) must be approved in progress review #2 (May of first year)
• **The Prospectus** (see below) must be defended and approved in progress review #3 (November of second year)
• **The Qualifying Exam** (see below) must be conducted during progress review #4 (May of second year) *Note, in this meeting, the senior committee member (i.e. longest in the MMBIO department) who is not the advisor conducts this meeting.*

In every semi-annual progress review, a student’s progress is rated “Satisfactory,” “Marginal,” or “Unsatisfactory.” A satisfactory rating recommends continuation in the program. Marginal or unsatisfactory ratings require the committee to list the changes and requirements a student needs to meet within a specified period of time, to remedy the problem(s). Two consecutive marginal/unsatisfactory ratings result in termination of student’s program. When no evaluation is submitted, the university considers this “unsatisfactory.”

Examples of Marginal or Unsatisfactory Progress:
- Not completing requirements from a previous unsatisfactory/marginal evaluation
- Grade below 2.0 in any class
- Failed to pass Qualifying/Coursework Exam or Oral Defense
- Not spending sufficient time in the laboratory to accomplish research
- Not attending RIP meetings, seminars or graduate retreat
- If admitted provisionally, not completing the provisions
- Not progressing in the program, such as no results in experiments or no papers written
- Not being able to state any accomplishments since the last progress review
- Not submitting program of study, prospectus, etc. when it is due

**PROSPECTUS**
Plans for the prospectus should be formulated by the student in consultation with, and then approved by, the advisory committee. It becomes the outline of the student’s dissertation. Any major change in research direction requires a new prospectus and approval by the advisory committee.

A general format for a prospectus would include
- Background information, significance, and project justification
- Clear statement of objectives and hypotheses being tested
- Experimental plan, including alternatives if planned approaches fail
- Expected results and timeline
- Bibliography

Generally, a dissertation prospectus will be 10 to 15 pages in length (excluding the bibliography).

When your committee approves your prospectus, they should sign Form B, Prospectus. This form, along with a copy of your prospectus, should be turned in to the graduate secretary. The deadline for the prospectus is progress review #3 (November of the 2nd year) for PhD students.

**QUALIFYING EXAM**
The qualifying exam advances a PhD student to candidacy. It should be taken no later than the student's fourth progress report (May of their second year). This is an important make-or-break event on the path to a PhD. The qualifying exam requires students to identify interesting phenomena in diverse areas of biology, to propose models to explain
these phenomena, and to design sound experiments to test these models. The exam also requires students to demonstrate familiarity with core theoretical and experimental principles learned in their coursework and elsewhere.

The Qualifying Exam consists of two parts:

1. Outside grant proposal.
   a. The student writes up three preliminary proposal summaries, each of which may not exceed 1 page in length. These preliminary proposals will explore problems that are distinct from the student’s research work and should involve diverse analytical systems. The three preliminary proposals are sent to the advisory committee by the first week in May. During the first week in May, the student should meet with the committee (or a majority thereof) for a brief pre-exam meeting in which the committee will announce their selection of a single topic that will be expanded upon in a full-length proposal. In this pre-exam meeting, the student also has an opportunity receive specific guidance from his or her committee prior to writing the full-length proposal.
   b. The student then writes the grant proposal, (using NIH or NSF format) within two weeks of committee approval. During this time period, all work must be done independently. This full-length proposal is submitted to the committee (mid-May).

2. Oral Exam
   The student defends his or her grant proposal within two weeks after submission to the advisory committee (late May). This exam will include a brief description of the proposal by the student, followed by questions from the committee. These questions will be focused on the proposal, but may also include topics that are relevant to the student’s coursework and other acquired knowledge. The student and committee should allocate a three-hour block for the exam.

To alleviate some of the stress associated with the PhD qualifying exam, students are strongly encouraged to keep a record of potentially interesting proposal topics as they are encountered throughout their first two years in the program. Examples of well-written proposals will be available as a guide for students in the Graduate Secretary’s office, 4010 LSB.

Judging the Qualifying Exam

1. Who:
   a. The exam committee judges the exam. It is made up of the student’s advisory committee. If the student’s advisory committee does not include a member of the MMBIO Graduate Committee, then a member of the MMBIO Graduate Committee will also be asked to participate.
   b. The senior member of the student’s advisory committee (i.e. longest in the MMBIO department) who is not the advisor will conduct the exam.

2. Results: The committee may vote to “pass,” “pass with qualification,” “recess,” or “fail” the student.
   a. It is possible to “stop” the exam at any point if two or more examiners vote to recess. This permits the candidate to reschedule the exam a second time. If the student does not pass the exam the second attempt, the student will be terminated from the program.
   b. If two or more examiners vote to fail, the examination is failed and the graduate degree program of the student is terminated.

Reporting the Exam: Form D, Qualifying Exam, is signed and submitted to the graduate secretary. A copy of the grant proposal, in its final form, will also be submitted.
Note: A student who completes coursework and departs early, but prior to the dissertation defense, is required to take the qualifying exam before leaving campus.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION
Graduation times are at the end of each semester or term: April, June, August, and December.

- **When to apply:** Usually at the beginning of the final semester of a student’s program. Check the university deadlines *(page 28, or ADV Form 8 for the relevant graduating year)*
- **How:** Apply online through “Route Y”; click on “School”; click on “Apply for Graduation”
  - Make sure you have a current ecclesiastical endorsement for the semester you graduate
  - Click on “Progress Report” and make sure it is correct
  - Type in your name the way you would like it to appear on your diploma.
  - Inform the graduate secretary that you have submitted an application to graduate.

WRITING THE DISSERTATION
Students can begin writing their dissertation/thesis as soon as their project has matured sufficiently and they have the approval of their advisor. Writing and continually revising along the way helps to clarify thinking and creates a better dissertation/thesis document. Check the university requirements on “Minimum Standards for Submitting Dissertations...” Form ADV11 and “Samples...” ADV11a. (They can be found online at www.byu.edu/gradstudies/forms/forms.php. Information includes requirements for format, style, preparing work for departmental approval, and preparing and submitting copies, forms and fees to the library.

The final version of the dissertation should include the following:

1. Title page
2. Abstract page
3. Table of Contents
4. List of Tables
5. List of Figures
6. Thorough introduction, including background information from the published literature.
7. Research chapters*
8. Summary/discussion of findings
9. Complete bibliography
10. Appendices. Unpublished data may also be included.

*Ideally, a student’s published work, including work in preparation for publication, will constitute the research chapters. These manuscripts will typically be inserted as double-spaced text, with figures and tables appropriately embedded.

FINAL RESEARCH REVIEW MEETING
The final review of the student’s research is held with the advisory committee (in conjunction with the final semi-annual progress review) to assure both the student and the committee that the body of research is satisfactorily completed, and the writing of the dissertation is underway. The student should present a final draft of the dissertation to his/her committee members soon after this meeting.
This meeting is held prior to scheduling the dissertation defense. The recommended time to schedule this review meeting is at the Final Progress Review, which would be in May for students graduating in August, or in November for students graduating in April.

As with all advisory committee meetings, it is the responsibility of the student to initiate and schedule this meeting.

**DISSECTATION DEFENSE**

The dissertation defense is conducted when the student has written his/her dissertation and is prepared to defend it. Normally this is during the last semester the student is on campus.

The Dissertation Defense consists of two parts:
1. The presentation of the dissertation
   a. The BYU academic community is invited to listen and ask questions at the presentation.
2. The oral defense
   a. Held immediately after the oral presentation, in a closed session.
   b. The defense committee asks questions and votes on the student’s performance.

Judging the Defense
1. Who:
   a. The exam committee judges the exam. It is made up of the student’s advisory committee. If the student’s advisory committee does not include a member of the MMBIO Graduate Committee, then a member of the MMBIO Graduate Committee will also be asked to participate.
   b. The senior member of the student’s advisory committee (i.e. longest in the MMBIO department), who is not the advisor, will conduct the exam.
2. Results: The committee may vote to “pass,” “pass with qualification,” “recess,” or “fail” the student.
   a. If the decision is to “pass with qualification,” the advisory committee may require minor revisions of the dissertation or strengthening of the candidate’s preparation in subject matter areas. When these qualifications are cleared, and the committee has properly recorded the clearance with the Office of Graduate Studies, the student is judged to have passed the examination.
   b. If two or more examiners vote to recess, the examination is stopped and postponed. This permits the candidate to reschedule (with the department and the Office of Graduate Studies) a second and final examination. The new examination cannot be held sooner than one month after the recessed examination. In addition, the second examination must be convened with the original committee. If the student does not pass an exam for a second time, the student will be terminated from the program.
   c. If two or more examiners vote to fail, the examination is failed and the graduate degree program of the student is terminated.

The advisory committee will communicate the results of the defense to the graduate coordinator and graduate secretary, using ADV Forms 9 and 10. These forms are sent to the student’s department mailbox when the defense is scheduled. Depending on the results, the advisory committee will assist with any revisions that may be necessary.
Scheduling the Defense: The student is responsible to schedule the date, time, and place at least two weeks in advance of the defense. To schedule the defense, the student needs to:

1. Check for university deadlines (2016-2017 on page 28, or look at ADV form 8 for the relevant year)
   2. Obtain “Department Scheduling for Final Oral Examination, ADV Form 8c” (You can get this form from the graduate studies website: http://graduatestudies.byu.edu).
3. Get approval from your advisory committee. This includes completing and getting committee signatures on ADV Form 8c.
4. Returning ADV Form 8c to the graduate secretary at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date.
5. At the time you schedule your defense, give copies of your dissertation to:
   a. Department Office, for interested individuals
   b. College Associate Dean, Dr. Laura Bridgewater, in 5007 LSB.
   c. All members of your advisory committee

The advisory committee will communicate the results of the defense to the graduate coordinator and graduate secretary, using ADV Forms 9 and 10 (which is sent to the student’s department mailbox when the defense is scheduled). Depending on the results, the advisory committee will assist with any revisions that may be necessary.

AFTER DEFENDING

Refer to ADV Form 12b, "Student Dissertation Submission Checklist”
• Complete “Approval for Submission of Dissertation, Thesis, or Selected Project, form 8d” (sent to the department graduate secretary when you schedule your defense, the secretary will give it to you) including required signatures (Make sure you sign this form along with all other required signatures. The Dean signs this form last and the date the Dean signs should be the month and year you put on the title page of your dissertation.)
• Make an Electronic copy of your dissertation for the Library. This is referred to as an ETD. You can find out how to do this at http://etd.byu.edu. Please allow yourself a couple of days to complete this requirement. You submit your ETD online and then it must be approved by the department and the Dean’s office before you do the next step.
• Deliver ADV Form 8d to Graduate Studies (105 FPH), once your ETD shows “Grad Office Review” status.
• Check your ABC report for any "T" grades given for thesis or research courses. A diploma will not be granted unless these have been changed to passing grades. A change-of-grade form will be sent to you for this purpose when you schedule your defense.
MS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETE DEGREE
MS Degree: Two years (usual time); five years (university limit)

CREDIT-HOURS
30 total credit-hours (5-8 research credit-hours and 6 thesis credit-hours)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- BIO 503, Research Orientation, 1 credit, offered fall only
- MMBIO 661, Molecular Biology of the Cell, 3 credits, offered fall only
- MMBIO 663, Articulating Science, 2 credits, offered winter only
- MMBIO 665, Genomics 3 credits, offered winter only
- MMBIO 691R, Graduate Seminar, 2 credits (1 per semester), offered fall and winter
  (Attend every fall & winter semester, but only register for it two times for two total credit hours)
- MMBIO 692R, Research in Progress, 2 credits (1 per semester), offered fall and winter
  (Attend every fall & winter semester, but only register for it two times for two total credit hours)
- MMBIO 695R, Research (5-8 credits)
- MMBIO 699R, PhD Dissertation (6 credits)
- Graduate Elective courses, 3-6 credits, as approved by committee
  (For a listing of MMBIO graduate courses offered, see page 26 in this Handbook)

Note: Audit courses cannot be counted for enrollment verifications or program credit.
For limits on transfer credit, senior credit, post-baccalaureate studies credit, and undergraduate
credit, see the current BYU Graduate Catalog.

FORMATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The advisory committee is to advise, direct, and approve the graduate student’s program,
both the academic work and the research work. Each committee member, not just the chair,
is involved in training and mentorship of assigned students. Careful evaluation, rigorous
review of student research and instruction, and regularly scheduled meetings can ensure a
quality experience. Students should feel free to meet with committee members individually or
as a committee as frequently as help and advice are needed. The student is required to take
the initiative in the formation of the committee, and to initiate the scheduling of all committee
meetings, which will typically take place during the months of November and May.

The student is temporarily assigned to be advised by the graduate coordinator at the time of
acceptance into the graduate program. In consultation with the graduate coordinator, MS
students must choose a permanent graduate advisory committee by their 1st progress report
(November of the first year). Members comprising the advisory committee are selected by the
student in consultation with the committee chair (the student’s research advisor), and
approved by the graduate coordinator. The advisory committee is formally organized as
signatures are recorded on Form ADV 3, Program of Study for Graduate Students. This form
is turned in to the graduate secretary.

The Master’s program advisory committee is comprised of a minimum of three faculty
members:
- 1 chair (faculty research advisor/mentor, typically from the MMBIO department)
- 1 faculty member from the MMBIO department
• 1 faculty member from MMBIO or another relevant department

All members of the committee should be present at committee meetings. For progress review meetings, if one member cannot attend, then the student can talk with that member individually to give updates and get a signature, if the advisor approves. However, for all examination and defense meetings, all members must be present.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study is a list of classes that meet both the program’s requirements and the student’s personal area of focus and interest. This list is determined by the student with the advisor’s guidance, and is approved by the advisory committee and the graduate coordinator. It is the responsibility of the student and the advisory committee to ensure that all of the prerequisite requirements have been completed. Students submit these courses on Form ADV 3, Program of Study for Graduate Students. They are due at the time of their 1st progress review (November of first year). The form is signed by committee members and turned in to the graduate secretary.

If it becomes necessary during the course of a graduate program to alter the course plan, the “Request for Study List Change” Form ADV 3b should be completed, signed, and turned in to the graduate secretary.

Students registering for classes not on their program of study list need to get their advisor’s approval.

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEWS

In November and May of each academic year, MS students meet with their advisory committee in a formal progress review meeting. The student’s advisor conducts the meeting.

The typical student procedure for this review is as follows:

1. Pick up Form A, Graduate Progress Review, from the graduate secretary and answer questions 1-9 in writing
2. Schedule the date, time, and location of the meeting with the advisory committee
3. After the progress review meeting, return the signed Form A to the graduate Secretary

Progress review meetings may serve multiple functions during the first two years:

• The Program of Study (Form 3) must be approved in progress review #1 (November of first year)
• The Prospectus (see below) must be defended and approved in progress review #2 (May of first year)
• The Coursework Exam must be conducted during progress review #4 (May of second year). Note, in this meeting, the senior committee member who is not the advisor conducts this meeting.

In every semi-annual progress review, the student’s progress is rated “Satisfactory,” “Marginal,” or “Unsatisfactory.” A satisfactory rating recommends continuation in the program. Marginal or unsatisfactory ratings require the committee to list the changes and requirements a student needs to meet within a specified period of time, to remedy the problem(s). Two consecutive marginal/unsatisfactory ratings result in termination of student’s program. When no evaluation is submitted, the university considers this “unsatisfactory.”
Examples of Marginal of Unsatisfactory Progress:
- Not completing requirements from a previous unsatisfactory/marginal evaluation
- Grade below 2.0 in any class
- Failed to pass qualification/Coursework Exam or Oral Defense
- Not spending sufficient time in the laboratory to accomplish research
- Not attending seminars or Grad Retreat
- If admitted provisionally, not completing the provisions.
- Not progressing in the program, such as no results in experiments or no papers written
- Not being able to state any accomplishments since the last progress review
- Not submitting program of study, prospectus, etc. when it is due

PROSPECTUS
Plans for the prospectus should be formulated by the student in consultation with, and then approved by, the advisory committee. It becomes the outline of their thesis. Any major change in research direction requires a new prospectus and approval by the advisory committee.

A general format for a prospectus would include
- Background information, significance, and project justification
- Clear statement of objectives and hypotheses being tested
- Experimental plan, including alternatives if planned approaches fail
- Expected results and timeline
- Bibliography

Generally, a thesis prospectus will be 8 to 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography.

When the advisory committee approves the prospectus, they should sign Form B, Prospectus. This form, along with a copy of the prospectus, should be turned into the graduate secretary. The deadline for the prospectus is progress review #2 (May of the first year) for masters students.

COURSEWORK EXAM
The coursework exam (for MS students) tests the knowledge gained from the classes the student has taken.

It should be taken when coursework is completed, but no later than the second year of the program. It cannot be taken on the same day that the thesis defense is held.

The exam is judged by the student’s advisory committee.
- The senior member of the committee (i.e. longest in the MMBIO department) who is not the chair conducts the exam.
- The committee may vote to “pass,” “pass with qualification,” “recess,” or “fail” the student.
- It is possible to “stop” the exam at any point if two or more examiners vote to recess. This permits the candidate to reschedule the exam a second time. If the student does not pass the exam the second attempt, the student will be terminated from the program.
- If two or more examiners vote to fail, the examination is failed and the graduate degree program of the student is terminated.
The student is responsible to schedule the date, time and location of the exam. This includes:

1. Get approval from advisory committee to schedule the exam.
2. Schedule the date, time, and location for the exam. Remember, it cannot be held on the same day as the thesis defense.
3. Take Form C, "Coursework Exam," with you to the meeting.
4. The advisory committee will return the completed form to the graduate coordinator, who signs it and turns it into the graduate secretary.

Note: A student who completes coursework and departs early, but prior to the thesis defense, is required to take the coursework exam before leaving campus.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION
Graduation times are at the end of each semester or term: April, June, August, and December.

- **When to apply:** The beginning of the final semester of a student’s program. Check the university deadlines ([page 28, or relevant graduating year](#))
- **How:** Apply online through “Route Y”; click on “School”; click on “Apply for Graduation”
  - Make sure you have a current ecclesiastical endorsement for the semester you graduate
  - Click on “Progress Report” and make sure it is correct
  - Type in your name the way you would like it to appear on your diploma.

WRITING THE THESIS
Students can begin writing their thesis as soon as their project has matured sufficiently and they have the approval of their advisor. Writing and continually revising along the way helps to clarify thinking and creates a better thesis document.

Check the university requirements on "Minimum Standards for Submitting Dissertations...” Form ADV11 and “Samples..." ADV11a. (They can be found online at [www.byu.edu/gradstudies/forms/forms.php](http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/forms/forms.php). Information includes requirements for format, style, preparing work for departmental approval, and preparing and submitting copies, forms and fees to the library.

The final version of the thesis should include the following:

1. Title page
2. Abstract page
3. Table of Contents
4. List of Tables
5. List of Figures
6. Thorough introduction, including background information from the published literature.
7. Research chapters*
8. Summary/discussion of findings
9. Complete bibliography
10. Appendices. Unpublished data may also be included.
*A student’s published work, including work in preparation for publication, may constitute the research chapters. These manuscripts will typically be inserted as double-spaced text, with figures and tables appropriately embedded.

**FINAL RESEARCH REVIEW MEETING**
The final review of the student’s research is held with the advisory committee (in conjunction with the final semi-annual progress review) to assure both the student and the committee that the body of research is satisfactorily completed, and the writing of the thesis is underway. The student should present a final draft of the thesis to his/her committee members soon after this meeting.

This meeting is held prior to scheduling the thesis defense. The recommended time to schedule this review meeting is at the final progress review, which would be in May for most students.

As with all advisory committee meetings, it is the responsibility of the student to initiate and schedule it.

**THESIS DEFENSE**
The thesis defense is conducted when the student has written his/her thesis and is prepared to defend it. Normally this is during the last semester the student is on campus.

The defense is conducted in two sessions: The presentation, and the oral defense. The BYU academic community is invited to listen and ask questions at the presentation. The oral defense (which immediately follows the oral presentation) is held in closed session, during which the advisory committee members are allowed to ask questions and vote on the student’s performance. The senior member of the committee (i.e. longest in the MMBIO department) who is not the chair conducts the defense.

**Scheduling the Defense:** The student is responsible to schedule the date, time, and place at least two weeks in advance of the defense. To schedule the defense:

1. Check for university deadlines (page 28, or Check ADV form 8 for the relevant year)
2. Obtain “Department Scheduling for Final Oral Examination, Form 8c” (You can get this form from the graduate studies website or the graduate secretary)
3. Get approval from your advisory committee. This includes completing and getting committee signatures on Form 8c.
4. Returning Form 8c to the graduate secretary at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date.
5. At the time you schedule your defense, give copies of your dissertation to:
   a. Department Office, for interested individuals
   b. College Associate Dean, Dr. Laura Bridgewater, in 5007 LSB.
   c. All members of your advisory committee

The advisory committee will communicate the results of the defense to the graduate coordinator and graduate secretary, using ADV Forms 9 and 10 (which will be sent to your department mailbox when you schedule your defense). Depending on the results, the advisory committee will assist with any revisions that may be necessary.

The advisory committee may vote to “pass,” “pass with qualification,” “recess,” or “fail”
the student. If the decision is to “pass with qualification,” the advisory committee may require minor revisions of the dissertation or strengthening of the candidate’s preparation in subject matter areas. When these qualifications are cleared, and the committee has properly recorded the clearance with the Office of Graduate Studies, the student is judged to have passed the examination.

If two or more examiners vote to recess, the examination is stopped and postponed. This permits the candidate to reschedule (with the department and the Office of Graduate Studies) a second and final examination. The new examination cannot be held sooner than one month after the recessed examination. In addition, the second examination must be convened with the original committee. If the student does not pass an exam for a second time, the student will be terminated from the program.

If two or more examiners vote to fail, the examination is failed and the graduate degree program of the student is terminated.

AFTER DEFENDING

Refer to ADV Form 12a, “Student Thesis Submission Checklist”

- Complete “Approval for Submission of Dissertation, Thesis, or Selected Project, form 8d” (sent to the department graduate secretary when you schedule your defense, the secretary will give it to you) including required signatures (Make sure you sign this form along with all other required signatures. The Dean signs this form last and the date the Dean signs should be the month and year you put on the title page of your thesis.)
- Make an Electronic copy [ETD] of your thesis for the Library. You can find out how to do this at http://etd.byu.edu. Please allow yourself a couple of days to complete this requirement. You submit your ETD online and then it must be approved by the department and Dean’s office before you do the next step.
- Deliver ADV Form 8d to Graduate Studies (105 FPH), once your ETD shows “Grad Office Review” status.
- Check your ABC report for any “T” grades given for thesis or research courses. A diploma will not be granted unless these have been changed to passing grades. A change-of-grade form will be sent to you for this purpose when you schedule your defense.
CHANGE OF DEGREE LEVEL

Guidelines for switching from the MS program to the PhD program

Occasionally, students in the master’s (MS) program desire to expand their research into a
more substantial body of work and obtain a PhD. The PhD degree requires a great deal
more time and resource allocation by student and advisor, and more independent
intellectual work on the part of the student. Therefore the MS student must formally apply
to the graduate committee for such a change of status. To apply for a change in program,
the MS student must submit the following documents to the graduate committee:

- Current transcripts from undergraduate and graduate institutions
- GRE scores (scores that accompanied the MS application may be used)
- Copies of all semi-annual progress review forms from the MS program
- Detailed letter of intent written by the student, including:
  - Reasons(s) for wanting to switch to the PhD program
  - Status of current research, presented in a way that emphasizes the
    momentum of the project and the intellectual independence of the applicant
  - Explication of how the MS research project will be elevated/expanded to the
    level of research that constitutes a PhD dissertation, including anticipated
    publications or inventions
  - Anticipated date of completion of the PhD
  - Plans after earning the PhD
  - List of current committee members (all of whom will be asked to provide
    letters of recommendation), as well as one of the following two statements:
    “I waive my right of access to letters of recommendation” or “I do not waive
    my right of access to letters of recommendation.” The former statement
    ensures candor on the part of the letter writers, and protects confidentiality.

After submission of these documents and receipt of letters from committee members, the
MS student may be invited to interview with the graduate committee. After careful
consideration, the graduate committee will then respond with a formal letter to the
applicant indicating either acceptance or denial of the request to change programs. In
some cases, a conditional acceptance may be granted, with conditions clearly delineated.

Applications to change programs may be submitted to the graduate committee at any
time during the year, but submission in January or February increases the likelihood of
accessing department funds that may be necessary for the program change. Send
documents to the graduate secretary.
PARTICIPATION IN THE MMBIO COMMUNITY

Graduate students are invited and expected to attend the following:

• MMBIO seminars held during the fall & winter semesters
• Graduate Research in Progress (RIP) Meetings held during the fall & winter semesters
• Graduate Retreat held at the conclusion of each summer

Seminars
During the regular academic year, seminars will be held on a weekly basis. In these seminars, scholars from BYU as well as invited guests from other institutions, present cutting-edge research findings. Graduate students will use these seminars as an opportunity to get up to date in various fields and to learn the art of scientific communication.

Graduate Research in Progress (RIP) Meetings
RIP meetings are held regularly during fall and winter semesters. They provide graduate students with an opportunity to practice effective scientific communication and receive feedback on their research work from MMBIO faculty and graduate students. Each graduate student can expect to give RIP presentations once or twice per year, but is required to attend every meeting. RIP presentations are typically 15-20 minutes in length. The presentation style should emphasize clarity and encourage active participation from the audience.

Graduate Retreat
A graduate retreat is held annually (just prior to the start of fall semester) to allow each student to present research findings. Presentations are directed to the graduate faculty and to other graduate students and interested individuals. The retreat normally lasts a full day and attendance is mandatory.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SOME PEOPLE YOU’LL WANT TO KNOW
• Dr. Rich Robison, MMBIO Chair, Office 4007B LSB
• Dr. Joel Griffitts, Graduate Coordinator, Office 3131 LSB
• Amanda Lake, Department Secretary, Office 4010 LSB
• MMBIO Graduate Secretary, 4012 LSB (General Q&A person and form-collector)

MMBIO DEPARTMENT OFFICES
• 4007 LSB, Department Secretary, 422-7403
• 4007 LSB, Student Secretaries, 422-2889
• 4014 LSB, College Conference Room
• 4012 LSB, Advisor & Graduate Secretary, 422-4293, mmbio@byu.edu, See MMBIO Advisor for grad questions and forms

GETTING A BYU-ID CARD
• ID Center, 2310-WSC (Wilkinson Student Center)
• Used to check out books in the library, pay for copies, take tests at the Testing Center, or as a “Signature Card” (debit card on campus), as well as for lab/building access.

DEPARTMENT MAILBOX
• Located in 4007 LSB
• Graduate student mail will be placed in your faculty advisors mailbox in 4007 LSB

KEYS AND CODES
• Codes: For access to the copy machine, contact your faculty advisor for research purposes. For department printing contact the student secretaries in 4007 LSB. For access to a lab, contact the faculty member responsible for that lab.
• After-hours access to LSB: obtain authorization from your faculty advisor. The Life Science Building is accessed with a student’s BYU-ID card, not a key.

ROTATIONS
Rotations allow students to spend a period of time in two or more faculty labs during the first few months of the program, giving them broader exposure to faculty research interests as well as getting to know faculty members prior to joining a lab. Which lab to rotate in, and the duration of the lab experience, is flexible. Lab rotations can be made with any eligible faculty of choice, if space is available. Students should take the initiative in asking faculty members for rotation experiences as well as determining their length. Students can receive credit for MMBIO-695R for this research experience. MS students not already committed to a lab are given the option to do rotations during the first semester of their program (two rotations are typical). PhD students who are financially supported by the department are strongly encouraged to do rotations during the first two semesters of their program (three rotations are typical). After rotations are completed, a mutual decision between student and faculty is reached regarding the choice of advisor.
COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

- 3057 LSB In the **Confocal Microscopy Lab** a researcher can capture high-resolution fluorescence data from cells and tissues. The laboratory also provides resources for histological sectioning. Additionally, small aliquots of secondary antibodies may be purchased at low cost. For more information go to [http://confocal.byu.edu](http://confocal.byu.edu).

- 2142 LSB – The **Computer Center**. Open access during the hours that the building is open. Contains about 24 computers, a printer and a scanner. Fee charged for scanner use and for copies printed. (Your Signature Card is used to pay for these items.)

- 3118 LSB - The **Research Instrumentation Core Facility** (aka RIC) houses specialized equipment for use by researchers at BYU. It is equipped with three flow cytometers, Cytospin centrifuge, Sorvall centrifuge, fluorescent plate reader, fluorescence microscope with digital imaging, and Nanodrop spectrophotometer. The RIC also provides access to a new state-of-the-art cell sorter housed in the Benson Building. Dr. Sandra Hope is the Director of the Lab. For further information please visit the website at [http://ricfacility.byu.edu](http://ricfacility.byu.edu).

- 4046 LSB - The **DNA Sequencing Center**. Equipment includes the Applied Biosciences 3730xl DNA analyzer for BigDye Sanger sequencing, and the Illumina HiSeq 2500 for deep sequencing applications. The center will soon be acquiring a PacBio Sequel single-molecule, long-read, high throughput sequencing instrument. [http://dnasc.byu.edu/indexResources.asp](http://dnasc.byu.edu/indexResources.asp)

ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

For additional information see the current BYU Graduate Catalog

REGISTRATION

The current “class schedule” bulletin contains complete registration instructions, deadlines, and a list of classes offered. This can be found online at [www.byu.edu](http://www.byu.edu) under the “Favorites” link, listed on the lower left of the page.

FULL TIME STATUS

For graduate students, full time enrollment is 9 credit hours for a semester and 4.5 credit hours for a term.

ADV form 2a lists qualifications to petition for full-time status when you are enrolled in less than 9 (or 4.5 credits in a term) credits, if this status is needed (i.e. loan requirements).

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

The department expects graduate students to be continuously enrolled until all program requirements are completed.

- **New students:** must enroll for at least 2 credits in first semester or term of their graduate program.

- **Everyone:**
  - Enroll a minimum of 6 credits per academic year
    - If admitted winter, 4 credits for academic year
    - If admitted spring or summer, 2 credits for academic year
  - Receive acceptable grades (no E’s, E’s, D’s, W’s, UW’s or I’s)
  - Satisfactory semi-annual progress reports
• **PhD candidates**: In addition to the above requirements, PhD candidates must fulfill a residency requirement by registering for at least register two consecutive 6-credit semesters on BYU campus during their program.

• **International students**: Immigration law requires minimum enrollment of 9 credits each fall and 9 credits each winter, until all class work is completed. Then minimum enrollment is 2 credits each fall and each winter semesters. Immigration does not require Spring & Summer enrollment; however, you must still have the minimum of 6 credits per year to fulfill the university requirement.

**Graduate Student Work Eligibility Guidelines**

*If you are hired as a TA or paid a research stipend, you must meet these guidelines in addition to the Graduate Studies guidelines on Continuous Enrollment.*

**Fall & Winter Semesters:**

- **U.S. Citizens:**
  - Must register for at least 2 credit hours each Fall semester and each Winter semester.

- **International Students:**
  - Must register for at least 9 credit hours each Fall semester and each Winter semester. See ADV Form 2a for exceptions once course work is completed.

**Spring & Summer Terms:**

- **U.S. Citizens:**
  - Must register for at least 1 credit hour in *either* Spring term or Summer term.

- **International Students:**
  - Must register for at least 4.5 credit hours (day-continuing) in *both* Spring term and Summer term unless you are on official break. If you are on official break, you don’t need to register for any classes to maintain work eligibility during Spring and Summer terms. See ADV Form 2a for exceptions once course work is completed.

**LOSS OF CONTINUING STATUS**

If continuous status is lost, you will need to:

- fill out an “Application to Resume Graduate Study” form GS6 and pay a non-refundable $600.00 fee.
- Submit a “Reaplication Honor Code Commitment & Ecclesiastical Endorsement” form GS6a.
- If international, submit new financial certification forms, GS form I-1 and I-2.
- Register for at least 2 credits for the term in which you are readmitted.

Note that students who are not approved for readmission through the process above, can apply to the same graduate program through the regular online submission process, but no previous course work will be considered on the new program of study.

**LAST SEMESTER**

- Two hour minimum registration is required for all graduate students during the semester or term in which the student defends their thesis/dissertation and finishes the graduate program. If a student is finishing in August, they may register for 2 hours in Spring term, 2 hours in Summer term, or 1 hour in each Spring & Summer term.
- Students must have current ecclesiastical endorsement for the semester/term in which they apply for graduation and receive their diploma.
INTERRUPTION OR TERMINATION OF PROGRAM
Students may interrupt their study, as well as be terminated from their program, under conditions listed on pages 23 of this handbook. There is a process for review of termination.

GRADUATION DATES
BYU students can graduate in April, June, August, and December of each year. However, convocation and commencement will only be held in conjunction with April and August graduations. Those graduating in June or December may attend convocation and commencement with those graduating immediately prior or after their graduation.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

PHD STUDENTS:
PhD Students receive a stipend, full tuition coverage on their program classes and payment of the required student insurance (student only, not dependents). To receive continued departmental funding, these students must:
1. Be a degree-seeking, continuously-enrolled PhD graduate student
2. Have & maintain a 3.0 GPA (cumulative program GPA)
3. Maintain satisfactory progress towards their degree

Stipend: The stipend consists of one semester as a teaching assistant (TA) for the department and two semesters as a research assistant (RA) and is paid as a contract each semester. The department secretary will set up the contract and send it to the student to be electronically signed each semester. Students should be registered for a minimum 2 hours of credit each fall and each winter semester and a minimum 1 hour of credit each spring and each summer term to maintain their eligibility to work.

Tuition Scholarship: If a tuition scholarship is awarded, it is only for those classes required for a degree (on the student’s program of study list). If a student desires to take a course for personal interest, he/she will need to pay for it. However, if a student is enrolled full-time (8.5 credits per semester or 4.5 credits per term) they may elect to add a class of their choice, since there will be no added tuition costs to the department.

All graduate students may attend religion courses without cost or credit by completing the “Graduate Student Request for No-Cost/No-Credit Religion Course” form found on the Grad Studies Web site.

Insurance: A scholarship will be awarded each semester to pay the premium amount for student insurance which changes every semester. The student, however, is still responsible to enroll in the insurance plan. Once enrolled, a charge will appear on the student’s financial account which will then be automatically paid by the department insurance scholarship. BYU insurance does not meet the federal requirements on insurance. If a student has non-BYU insurance, they should notify the Department Secretary. The department does not pay for dependent or maternity options.

MASTERS STUDENTS:
Masters students are not guaranteed financial assistance, but should consider opportunities to TA, access temporary departmental assistance, or access assistance from external funding that may be available through the faculty advisor.
If students do receive a stipend, they should be registered for a minimum 2 hours of credit each fall and each winter semester and a minimum 1 hour of credit each spring and each summer term to maintain their eligibility to work.

LENGTH OF TIME FOR DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT
The maximum length of time a student may receive financial support from the department is two year (6 semesters) for masters students, and 6 years (18 semesters) for PhD students. Support is always contingent upon receiving satisfactory status and a 3.0 GPA.

NON-DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL AID
BYU Financial Aid Office offers loans, including short term and Stafford Loans. BYU Graduate Studies Office offers research fellowship awards and mentoring grants. Some of the scholarships listed on Prestigious Scholarships website are also available for graduate students. You may also check with faculty members for other externally funded projects.

Stafford loans will require students to start paying back loans, if registered for less than half time (4.5 credits in a semester). Other loans may have required enrollment qualifications. The financial office can tell if you qualify for exceptions, in which case you can petition for full-time status.

STUDENT OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
Outside employment is discouraged. Maximum time and resources should be used for student progress toward a degree. However, if it is necessary, a short memo from the student with endorsement by his/her Advisor should be submitted for approval to the Graduate Coordinator. It should also be noted that BYU Policy does not allow a student to work for more than one church employer at a time (examples of other church employers include Deseret Book, Church Offices, other church schools etc.)

OTHER POLICIES

HEALTH INSURANCE
BYU requires all full time graduate students to be insured. If you have private insurance, please provide that information to BYU through Route Y. BYU offers an annual insurance policy through the Student Health Program. Current premium rates for the 2016-2017 year are: $888 for a single student and $1,422 for a married student, per year. Dependents and maternity benefits for men will cost extra. This extra cost is not covered by the department. Further information can be found at: http://health.byu.edu. If you click on DMBA Handbooks” “under the "Student Health” menu at the top, you can view the current Handbook.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
An international graduate student is required to enroll in at least 9 semester hours of credit each fall and each winter semester. Once all course work is complete, the student should request a memo from the MMBIO Advisor to the International Office which certifies that all course work is complete. The student is then required to enroll for only thesis (699R) or dissertation (799R) credit, which may be as few as two credits per semester.

The International Office (as required by Immigration and Naturalization rules) does not require spring and/or summer enrollment. However, international students must still
comply with university requirements of registering for at least 6 credit-hours per academic year (fall semester through summer term).

Students who are working must be registered for a minimum 2 hours of credit each fall and each winter semester and a minimum 1 hour of credit each spring and each summer term to maintain their eligibility to work. International students can only work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the fall and winter semesters. See the International Office regarding any other limitations or restrictions.

An international student should keep in contact with the International Services Office for the varying requirements of the Immigration and Naturalization Office and their respective countries. The International Services Office is at 1351 WSC, phone number 422-2695, email at intloff@byu.edu, and website at www.international.byu.edu.

MATERNITY LEAVE
It is the student's responsibility to coordinate their maternity leave with their PI and the graduate coordinator, including any necessary paperwork if the student intends an extended leave.

INTERRUPTION OR TERMINATION OF PROGRAM
Students must get approval from the department chair and graduate coordinator before they interrupt their graduate program. The length of time from the start of graduate study, the interrupted time, and the completion of the degree must be within the university’s degree time limits, which are 5 years for M.S. programs and 8 years for PhD programs.
A student may then resume study with:
• Approval of the department and graduate dean
• Submission of Form 1a, Application to Resume Graduate Study
• A $125.00 non-refundable processing fee
• Reapplication of Honor Code Commitment form
• New Financial Certification Form (for International students)

A student who wishes to terminate or withdraw, should contact their advisor first and then the Discontinuance Office, B-150 ASB.

Once enrolled, a graduate student loses eligibility to register if:
1. The student has not fulfilled the minimum registration requirement (6 hours per academic year).
2. The student has not submitted a program of study as required: master's students by the third week of the second semester after admission; doctoral students by the third week of the beginning of the second year.
3. Graduate Studies has not received official transcripts showing that the required prerequisite degrees have been conferred.
4. The student’s time limit has expired.
5. The student has received two unacceptable evaluations in succession.
6. The student has withdrawn or has been terminated by the department.
7. The student has violated the BYU Honor Code and is not cleared by the Honor Code Office.
8. The student has failed to submit an annual continuing ecclesiastical endorsement.
9. The student has graduated from the graduate program.

Termination of graduate status may result if a student:
1. Fails to satisfactorily complete the conditions of acceptance.
2. Fails to fulfill the university’s minimum registration requirements.
3. Makes a request to withdraw (with the intent to pursue a degree at another university, for personal reasons, or in response to department recommendation).
4. Receives two consecutive marginal and/or unsatisfactory rating in a semi-annual progress review and/or is unable or unwilling to comply with conditions placed upon him/her.
5. Fails to make satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree, as deemed by the department or university.
6. Fails the departmental qualifying exam including grant proposal requirements (for a PhD degree student) or coursework oral exam (for Master’s degree students)
8. Violates the university’s standards of conduct or Honor Code.
9. Exceeds the time limit (5 years for master’s, 8 years for doctoral).

A student may request a review of termination by contacting the department chair in writing. A student who has made significant progress on a PhD degree but is terminated from that program, can petition to convert to a master’s program. A student who wishes further consideration may request review by the college dean. A final request for review may be made to the university graduate dean.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Brigham Young University desires to provide personnel and students with a work and academic environment free from discrimination, including any form of unlawful sexual harassment or inappropriate gender-based behavior. If you encounter sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your advisor, contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 422-5895, or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students are expected to uphold the honor code commitment while attending the Brigham Young University. This includes honesty; obeying the laws and campus policy; living a chaste and virtuous life; respecting others, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, coffee, and abusive substances; and encouraging others. The Honor Code is online at http://honorcode.byu.edu/The_Honor_Code.htm.

BYU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may adversely affect your success, please contact the University Accessibility Center at 422-2767. Services deemed appropriate will be coordinated with the department.

Plagiarism of any kind is completely contrary to the established practices of higher education, where all members of the university are expected to acknowledge the original intellectual work of others that is included in one's own work. Intentional plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft that violates widely recognized principles of academic integrity as well as the Honor Code. Such plagiarism may subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action administered through the university Honor Code Office, in addition to academic sanctions that may be applied by the department. Inadvertent plagiarism, whereas not in violation of the Honor Code, is nevertheless a form of intellectual carelessness that is unacceptable in the academic community.

Brigham Young University, is an educational institution affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Within this context of religious preference, Brigham Young University considers equal opportunity and nondiscrimination to be fundamental to its mission, goals, and objectives.
LIST OF FORMS

Forms A, B, C, and D can be obtained from the graduate secretary in 767 WIDB. All other forms can also be found online at the Graduate Studies web page, www.byu.edu/gradstudies, and click on “Forms & Resources” tab.

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<td>Gene Regulation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Room</td>
<td>PhD Date and Institution</td>
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<td>Brad Berges</td>
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<td>Donald P. Breakwell</td>
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<td>Laura Bridgewater</td>
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<td>R. Paul Evans</td>
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<td>Julianne Grose</td>
<td>4940</td>
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<td>Alan R. Harker</td>
<td>3582</td>
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<td>Sandra Hope</td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>3134</td>
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<td>Steven Johnson</td>
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<td>William R. McCleary</td>
<td>6215</td>
<td>3128</td>
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<td>Brent Nielsen</td>
<td>1102</td>
<td>3130</td>
<td>1985 Oregon State U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim L. O’Neill</td>
<td>2449</td>
<td>3142</td>
<td>1986 New University of Ulster, N. Ireland</td>
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<td>Brian Poole</td>
<td>8092</td>
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<td>Richard A. Robison</td>
<td>2416</td>
<td>4007B</td>
<td>1988 B.Y.U.</td>
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<td>6259</td>
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<td>Eric Wilson</td>
<td>4138</td>
<td>3135</td>
<td>2000 Montana State University</td>
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</table>
Students who miss the graduation deadlines for any given semester must register for at least 2 hours (preferably project, thesis, dissertation, or internship credit) or pay the equivalent minimum registration fee and will graduate the following semester.

All graduation applications are submitted online.

Note: Some departments and colleges have deadlines earlier than those listed below. Check with your graduate coordinator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec 2016</th>
<th>Apr 2017</th>
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None*

Apr 27

None*

Aug 16

Graduation — University Commencement

None*

Apr 23

None*

Aug 17

Graduation — College Convocations

* All students in dissertation or thesis programs must use ADV Form 8d to schedule the final oral examination at least two weeks before the exam. Final examinations may not be held during the “interim period” between semesters or terms.

* December graduates are invited to participate in April graduation exercises. June graduates are invited to participate in August graduation exercises.

http://graduatstudies.byu.edu/ click: Deadlines/Graduation deadlines and the ADV Form 8 will appear.
# PHD DEGREE STUDENT CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Progress Reports and Other Required Items</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Progress Review #1</td>
<td>Form A</td>
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<td>Program of Study and Advisory Committee declared</td>
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<td>Progress Review #3</td>
<td>Form A</td>
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<td>Prospectus</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Progress Review #4</td>
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<td>Qualifying/Comprehensive Exam</td>
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<td>Continue Progress Reviews each November and May until Dissertation Defense is held</td>
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<td>Dissertation and Graduation Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>*First Month of Final Semester, Prior to dissertation defense</td>
<td>Apply for Graduation</td>
<td>Form 8A</td>
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<tr>
<td>*At least 2 weeks prior to Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Schedule Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Form 8C</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Third month into final semester</td>
<td>Hold Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Forms 9 and 10</td>
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<td>*Two weeks after Defense</td>
<td>Submit Dissertation and pay fees</td>
<td>Form 8D</td>
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*Specific Deadlines given by the University and MUST be met. See current year of “Graduation Deadlines for Graduate Students, Form ADV 8” for those dates.
# MASTER’S DEGREE STUDENT CHECKLIST

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<td>November</td>
<td>Program Review #1</td>
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<td>Program of Study &amp; Advisory</td>
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### Thesis and Graduation Requirements

*First Month of Final Semester
- Apply for Graduation
  - Form 8A

*Two weeks prior to Thesis Defense
- Schedule Thesis Defense
  - Form 8C

*Third month into final semester
- Hold Thesis Defense
  - Forms 9 and 10

*Two weeks after Defense
- Submit Thesis and pay fees
  - Form 8D

*Specific Deadlines given by the University and MUST be met. See current year of “Graduation Deadlines for Graduate Students, Form ADV 8” for those dates.