

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE Ph.D. QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences

Purpose: The purpose of the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination is to determine the student's knowledge and ability to scientifically analyze information in her/his track and in biomedical sciences in general. The student is expected to apply this knowledge to form hypotheses, specific aims to test hypotheses, and propose appropriate experimental approaches to address the specific aims. The examination serves to test the scientific acumen of the graduate student to address biomedical issues with rigor and bioethical considerations.

Prior to scheduling of the examination, the Advisory Committee section of the GRAD form and Plan of Study form must be approved and on file in the College of Graduate Studies. These documents should be completed within two weeks after the student joins a faculty mentor's lab.

Scheduling: The first meeting should occur within the Spring term of the student's first year, but certainly no later than early Summer semester of the first year. At this meeting, the topic of the research proposal for the Qualifying Exam should be decided upon. The Qualifying Examination must be administered by the **end of the Fall semester of the second year**. Should a student need to extend their deadline beyond the end of the Fall semester of their second year, the student and major advisor must petition, in writing, to the Associate Dean of COMLS Graduate Programs at least two months prior to the above deadline. **The student cannot, under any circumstances, register for, audit, or attend any sessions of the Grant Writing Workshop before passing the**

APPENDIX: GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION GRANT PROPOSAL

The proposal will resemble the NIH R21 style. The proposal should be prepared in single-spaced 11 point Arial font.

Instructional assistance for preparing R21 grant applications can be found at:

