

Addendum

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) 2009-2011 Catalog.

Current text, page 105

PETITION FOR THE Ph.D. CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

Students who matriculated prior to the Fall term of 2008 must petition for Ph.D. candidacy before the end of the first semester of the third year of admission to the Ph.D. program (before the end of the second year if the student previously has earned an M.S. degree or one year after an M.S. has been completed at the GSBS). Students who matriculated in the Fall 2008 term or thereafter must petition for Ph.D. candidacy by the end of the second year following matriculation.

Before submitting the petition, the student must have repaired all deficiencies identified by the student's Advisory Committee and completed the tutorials and area course requirements. The petition consists of the signatures of the Advisory Committee to indicate their approval, the specific aims of the research proposal, and the names of the proposed members of the Examining Committee. The petition should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs for review by the ASC.

Revised text:

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Students who matriculated prior to the Fall term of 2008 must petition for Ph.D. candidacy before the end of the first semester of the third year of admission to the Ph.D. program (before the end of the second year if the student previously has earned an M.S. degree or one year after an M.S. has been completed at the GSBS). Students who matriculated in the Fall 2008 term or thereafter must petition for Ph.D. candidacy by the end of the second year following matriculation.

Before submitting the petition for the candidacy exam, the student must have repaired all deficiencies identified by the student's

Advisory Committee and completed the tutorials and area course requirements. If a student has formally affiliated with a Program, the Program guidelines for the candidacy exam process should be followed. Students not affiliated with a Program should follow the general GSBS guidelines.

Under the general GSBS guidelines, Ph.D. students who matriculated on or after the Fall term of 2008 must take a candidacy exam in the "off-topic" format. Off-topic means that the written proposal must be on a topic different from the student's proposed dissertation project, different from any project pursued by the student in a tutorial rotation, different from the student's M.S. thesis (if applicable), different from any project ongoing in the laboratory of the student's advisor, and not a project that differs in a trivial manner from any of the above (that is, different animal model, different gene, etc.).

Prior to the final Advisory Committee meeting, the student forwards to the Advisory Committee members an abstract of the student's proposed dissertation project. This abstract should be no more than one page in length, and contain the background, hypothesis and specific aims of the project. The student also forwards to the Advisory Committee three off-topic abstracts. Each off-topic abstract should be no more than one page in length and provide the background and hypothesis of the proposal. At the last Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee is responsible for approving the petition for candidacy, including the approval of the three off-topic abstracts.

Working with the Advisor, the student identifies the membership of the Examining Committee. The student then meets individually with the proposed members of the Examining Committee, and provides them with the off-topic abstracts. Their initials on the Examining Committee form indicate their approval of the student's off-topic abstracts and their willingness to serve on the Examining Committee. The student then submits these completed petition forms, plus the dissertation abstract plus the three off-topic abstracts to the Office of Academic Affairs for approval by the Academic Standards Committee. The petition consists of the signatures of the Advisory Committee to indicate their approval, the specific aims of the research proposal, and the names of the proposed members of the Examining Committee. The petition should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs for review by the ASC.

When the student is notified by the Office of Academic Affairs of the approval of the Candidacy Exam petition, the student contacts the Examining Committee to schedule the exam at least six weeks into the future. Once the exam is scheduled, the Examining Committee decides which of the three off-topic abstracts will form the basis for the candidacy exam proposal, and provides this information to the student. The student then has four weeks to complete the proposal and forward it to the Examining Committee. The Examining Committee then has two weeks to review the proposal prior to the examination.

Students taking the on-topic candidacy examination must also petition for candidacy, and should consult with their Program Director for the guidelines.

Current text, pp 106-107

PURPOSE OF THE Ph.D. WRITTEN AND ORAL CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

The candidacy examination is meant to be an evaluation of the student's ability to construct a hypothesis, to design the means by which to test it, and to critically analyze obtained results. The purpose of the oral candidacy examination is to give the student the opportunity to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the research area in which he or she is being tested;
- The ability to formulate a research problem and to comprehend its significance; and
- The ability to design appropriate experimental approaches to solve the problem.

A student's performance will be regarded as satisfactory only if the student:

- Demonstrates an adequate knowledge of the field and the research specialty in which he or she is being tested
- Formulates a research problem, the solution of which will make a substantial contribution to our existing knowledge
- Makes sound judgments about the proposed experimental design and can interpret critically the results anticipated; and
- Demonstrates that the experimental design and methods proposed are appropriate to solving the problem.

Revised text:

PURPOSE OF THE Ph.D. ~~WRITTEN AND ORAL~~ CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

The purpose of the candidacy examination is to test the breadth and depth of knowledge in the biomedical sciences. The ~~candidacy~~ examination is meant to be an evaluation of the student's ability to

construct a hypothesis, to design the means by which to test it, and to critically analyze obtained results. The purpose of the oral candidacy examination is to give the student the opportunity to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the research area in which he or she is being tested;
- The ability to formulate a research problem and to comprehend its significance; and
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A student's performance will be regarded as satisfactory only if the student:

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Current text, pp 112-113:

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Students enrolled in M.S. degree programs are provided the opportunity to gain mastery of the scientific background of their discipline and their specific research problem. Such mastery is acquired from didactic instruction and individual study of the scientific literature. Laboratory studies provide opportunities to gain technical facility with the methods required for investigation. The preparation of the M.S. thesis provides experience in stating a research problem within the framework of contemporary knowledge, presenting the rationale for the technical approach to be taken in solving the problem, presenting valid and reproducible results obtained by the application of methodology appropriate to the problem, and providing a coherent analysis of the results and the conclusions drawn from this analysis.

The acquisition of technical expertise should be the major objective of students at the M.S. degree level, and the M.S. thesis should evidence the student's mastery of the knowledge and technology required for the solution of the research problem. While studies at the M.S. level may place less emphasis than those at the Ph.D. level on the scope and magnitude of the intellectual contribution, the M.S. thesis should demonstrate the student's creativity in the solution of a scientific problem. At the present time, GSBS rules prohibit a student from preparing a thesis by assembling together published papers verbatim. Instead, the thesis should be an original document written by the student.

The M.S. degree remains an important component of the educational program at GSBS. Although many students currently bypass the M.S. portion of the Ph.D. program, the Faculty continues to recognize the value of studies for the M.S. degree for some Ph.D. students, as well as for students seeking graduate training available through individualized or specialized M.S. programs.

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reproducible results obtained by the application of methodology appropriate to the problem, and providing a coherent analysis of the results and the conclusions drawn from this analysis.

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Current text, p113:

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The M.S. program of work must consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework, which must include at least one semester of Thesis for Master of Science and a minimum of six credit hours of Research in Biomedical Sciences. Didactic courses, Literature Survey, Special Project: Course, Special Project: Research, and Tutorial Research Experience may be used toward the remaining 24 semesters hours of course work. The majority (i.e. over 50%) of these 30 credit hours, plus the majority of any additional coursework required by the ASC or the student's Advisory or Supervisory Committees, must be taken in residence at GSBS, at other UTHSC schools, or at an institution with which UTHSC-H has consortium arrangements (i.e., Rice University, the University of Houston, or Baylor University).

Revised text:

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The M.S. program of work must consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework, which must include one credit hour of The Ethical Dimensions of the Biomedical Sciences, at least one semester six credit hours of Thesis for Master of Science and a minimum of six credit hours of Research in Biomedical Sciences. For students entering in the Fall of 2010, a minimum of 12 credit hours of didactic courses, graded A/F, must be taken. Other Didactic-didactic courses, Literature Survey, Special Project: Course, Special Project: Research, and Tutorial Research Experience may be used toward the remaining 24 required semesters hours of course work credit hours. The majority (i.e. over 50%) of these 30 credit hours, plus the majority of any additional coursework required by the ASC-Academic Standards Committee or the student's Advisory or Supervisory Committees, must be taken in residence at GSBS, at other UTHSC schools, or at an institution with which UTHSC-H has consortium arrangements (i.e., Rice University, the University of Houston, or Baylor University).

Current text, p 126:

Graduate School assistantships normally are not awarded to students in the individualized or specialized M.S. degree programs, although financial aid may be available from individual faculty members

or the specialized M.S. programs. Students in M.S. programs are eligible to receive a stipend (not to exceed the current GRA level) for the duration of their degree training.

Revised text:

Graduate School assistantships normally are not awarded to students in the individualized or specialized M.S. degree programs, although financial aid may be available from individual faculty members or the specialized M.S. programs. Students in M.S. programs are eligible to receive a stipend (not to exceed the current GRA level) for the duration of their degree training. M.S. students who do not receive Graduate Research Assistant stipends may pursue outside employment. If a student is employed in the laboratory in which the student is also performing M.S. thesis work, experiments performed and data generated in the normal work associated with the employment may not be included in the M.S. thesis.
