

2017 Milestones Agreement: PhD Program

This form is provided for the purpose of informing students about the academic milestones that they will be expected to reach in order to earn their PhD degree, and when they are expected to complete these milestones in order to make satisfactory progress through the program. Students who are not making satisfactory progress will be placed on academic probation and may be dismissed from the program. The University of Texas System requires that this form is reviewed and signed by both the advisor and student each year during the student's enrollment in the PhD Program.

Academic Advising

Upon entering the GSBS PhD program, all students will be assigned an interim academic advisor from the GSBS Deans' Office. New students are also encouraged to seek advice from the GSBS Program Directors or their designees. Once a student selects his or her dissertation advisor, this faculty member will take over the advising role. Any first year student who has not found a research advisor by the time that this form is due should contact the Office of Academic Affairs to set up an appointment with a GSBS advisor.

Academic advising includes the following elements that are designed to ensure that students remain in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress through the program. Students and their advisors are mutually responsible for working together to ensure that the student accomplishes the following:

- Assemble advisory and candidacy examination committees with guidance from the advisor.
- Meet with the advisor and advisory committee every 6 months or more often.
- Select appropriate courses based on degree requirements and suggestions from the student's advisory committee.
- Review and understand all of the degree requirements and progress consistently with the expectations of the program, reaching milestones according to the timeline provided on this form; work with the Office of Academic Affairs, the student's Advisory Committee or Program Director if modifications are necessary.
- Meet regularly with the advisor to clarify the timetable for completing any remaining course requirements, examinations, and other requirements.
- Understand the requirements for the writing and successful defense of the dissertation.
- Benefit from experiences and information provided by the advisor to optimize the student's career opportunities and success. To that end, the student is required to complete an Individual Development Plan (IDP) annually.

Requirements for Students in the GSBS PhD Program

Milestone

- Complete *Ethical Dimensions of the Biomedical Sciences*
- Complete tutorial rotations
- Identify a research advisor
- Join a GSBS Graduate Program³
- Obtain approval from ASC for Advisory Committee
- Hold first advisory meeting
- Hold Advisory Committee meeting
- Complete GSBS pre-candidacy course requirements
- Complete Program pre-candidacy course requirements
- Complete online ethics modules⁴
- Complete a scientific writing course⁵
- Petition for Ph.D. candidacy
- Take candidacy exam
- Complete all Program-specified requirements
- Submit a minimum of one first-authored scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal⁶
- Submit a signed petition to defend dissertation
- Defend dissertation
- Publish a minimum of one first-authored scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal⁷
- Submit final signed dissertation and complete all exit paperwork
- Complete all degree requirements

Expected Time of Achievement¹

End of Fall term of 1st year
End of Spring term of 1st year²
End of Spring term of 1st year²
End of Spring term of 1st year²
End of Summer term of 1st year²
End of Fall term of 2nd year
Every 6 months
End of Summer term of 2nd year
End of Summer term of 2nd year
End of Summer term of 2nd year
End of Summer term of 2nd year
End of Summer term of 2nd year
End of Fall term of 3rd year
Before defense
Before defense
2 weeks prior to defense
Before graduation
Before graduation
Before graduation
Within 7 years of admission

¹The expected timing listed is based on matriculation in the Fall Semester of the academic year

²It is permissible for students in some Programs (e.g., Medical Physics) to meet these requirements on a slightly different schedule (e.g., the third tutorial may be done during the summer term, the advisor may be selected by the end of the summer, etc.)

³Required of students who matriculated in Fall 2012 and thereafter

⁴Required of students who matriculated in Fall 2011 and thereafter

⁵Required of students who matriculated in Fall 2014 and thereafter

⁶Required of students who matriculated between Fall 2008 and Summer 2014

⁷Required of students who matriculated in Fall 2014 and thereafter

Degree-Completion Checklist for Students

- Maintain active student status by registering as a full-time student for courses every Fall (9 credit hours minimum), Spring (9 credit hours minimum) and Summer (6 credit hours minimum) term
- Successfully complete all Milestones listed on the previous page
- Each year complete an Individual Development Plan (IDP).
- Each year complete the *Milestones Agreement Form* with advisor by July 8.

We have read this form and discussed the milestones. The student understands that completion of these academic milestones according to the stated timeline is necessary in order to successfully complete the GSBS PhD program.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature

Date

Advisor's Name: _____

Advisor's Signature

Date

To complete this assignment, upload and submit the signed PDF form to Canvas. Name the PDF file with the student's name (last name/first name) to make it identifiable.

Manual signature procedure: Print this form. Student and advisor should sign and date it (both signatures should be on the same form). A scanned PDF file can then be uploaded to Canvas by the student.

The GSBS computer lab, BSRB S3.8112, is equipped with printers and scanners. Alternatively, mobile devices with cameras can be used. Visit [this page](#) (links to an external site) for suggested apps. Make sure the entire document is in the photo and focused with enough lighting for the text and signatures to be legible.

Digital signature procedure: This PDF file may be signed using digital IDs in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Clicking on the signature field(s) will trigger a prompt to attach a digital ID file, if one has been created. The PDF should then be saved and uploaded to Canvas by the student.

For technical advice, email gsbs.support@uth.tmc.edu.

ELECTRONIC OR PAPER VERSIONS OF THIS FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE GSBS – THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO UPLOAD THE SIGNED FORM DIRECTLY TO CANVAS