GSBS Neuroscience Graduate Program Academic Requirements

Revised May 2019

I. Advisory Committee

The student's Advisory Committee composition and requirements are the same as described by the GSBS. The student, in consultation with their mentor, chooses the Advisory Committee. The Advisory committee consists of at least five members including the faculty sponsor/mentor and the co-mentor, if any. At least three of the committee members must be faculty affiliated with the NGP. The committee must meet with the student at least once every six months to monitor research and academic progress and to ensure that the Program's standards of excellence are maintained. The committee is assembled by the student and must be approved by the GSBS Academic Standards Committee. This committee is also responsible for administering the dissertation defense.

II. Requirements for Completion of Graduate Studies in Neuroscience

A. Eligibility and Requirements

a. Students wishing to claim affiliation with the NGP must satisfy the entrance requirements of the GSBS for the M.S., Ph.D., or M.D./Ph.D. degree, matriculate, and affiliate with a laboratory as well as with the Program.

b. During the first year of studies, the student should fulfill the following requirements: (a) completion of research tutorials consistent with the GSBS requirements, (b) identification of a potential research sponsor within the Program by mutual agreement with the faculty member, and (c) begin coursework, as outlined below.

c. Students enrolled in the MD/PhD Program are required to satisfactorily complete the first two or three years of medical school coursework prior to entrance into the NGP.

B. Course Requirements

The minimum required coursework for NGP Ph.D. students is determined by the Curriculum Committee of the NGP and will be consistent with the GSBS requirements. The NGP-specific requirements currently include two core courses (Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Systems Neuroscience) and two electives, at least one of which has to be within Neuroscience. Electives can be taken in years 2 and 3, prior to or following Candidacy exam.

MD/PhD students will take one of the two Neuroscience program core courses (Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Systems Neuroscience) and two elective courses.

C. Doctoral Candidacy Exam

Program students must submit their candidacy exam documents (abstract, GSBS form) to the GSBS (Academic Standards Committee, ASC) before the end of their second year. Once the abstract has been accepted by the ASC, the student is given a timeline for preparation of their full written proposal and a timeframe for the oral defense administered by the standing

candidacy exam committee. Following the candidacy exam, the outcome is reported to the GSBS.

D. Thesis Research

Given a positive outcome on the candidacy exam, the student proceeds with their thesis research while continuing to meet at least every six months with their advisory committee. The advisory committee plays an active role in monitoring the progress of each student. One semester prior to the anticipated thesis defense, the student registers for dissertation research. A thesis defense date is scheduled in consultation with the research mentor and faculty advisory committee. Thesis document format and timelines are prescribed by GSBS Academic Affairs.