Doctoral BCB Program Overview

Doctoral Coursework
(see catalog for specific degree requirement)

Register each semester for courses (use first-year plan as guide)

Create Program of Study (in consultation with temporary faculty advisor) and submit to Graduate Coordinator. Due end of first semester (revise annually)

Complete core courses BINF 690, 701, 702, 730, 731, and 740 by end of third semester

Identify Committee Chair and Register for BINF 998 (most or all necessary coursework should be completed)

Comp Exam (offered in January each year)

Form a Committee
(at least 3 members) in consultation with Committee Chair (submit Graduate Committee Formation form)

Written Proposal
(progress report for BINF 998 CRN – required every semester until advancement)

Proposal Defense
(committee signs Proposal Approval form)

Advancement to Candidacy (submit copy of proposal, Proposal Approval form, and updated Program of Study); deadlines are spring - June 1, fall - November 1

Don’t forget to apply to graduate

Dissertation research (Register for 3 credits minimum of BINF 999 after advancement term appears in Degreeworks and continue BINF 999 through graduation)

Written Dissertation
(submit dissertation progress report for BINF 999 CRN – required every semester)

Oral Pre-defense
(PhD Dissertation Pre-Defense Approval form signed by committee members)

Oral Final Defense
(announcement required 2 weeks prior)

Finalize Dissertation – obtain signatures from committee, SSB Director, and COS Dean (see https://cos.gmu.edu/ssb/students/ for library submission deadlines)

You are Done – Congratulations!