Doctoral BIOS Program Overview

School of Systems Biology

**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 by the end of second semester (revise annually)

**Complete** required coursework. Your research career begins in the first semester, remember to incorporate lab rotations, limited directed studies and meetings with faculty advisor throughout.

**Form a Committee**  
(at least 4 members) in consultation with Committee Chair (submit Graduate Committee Formation form). Register for BIOS 998

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**Written Comp Exam**  
(created by committee, 1-week take home exam)

**Written Proposal**  
(progress report for BIOS 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

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

**Written Dissertation**  
(progress report for BIOS 999 CRN – required every semester until graduation)

**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/](https://cos.gmu.edu/ssb/students/) for library submission deadlines)

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Don’t forget to [apply to graduate](#)

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You are Done – Congratulations!