

Guidelines for Advancement to Candidacy and Beyond - Molecular Genetics & Microbiology

1. The MGM Program has three requirements for advancement to candidacy:

Successful completion of all required courses (grade of "B" or better)

Pass on qualifying exam

Pass on proposal defense

2. After the successful completion of the qualifying exam, you should consult with your advisor and assemble an advisory committee that will serve you during the proposal defense and through your dissertation defense. The committee should have a minimum of two internal members and one external member (i.e., internal/external to the Program). **It is advisable to have three internal members and one external member** in case there is a problem with one internal member attending your dissertation defense. The proposal defense is based on a written research proposal in the format of an NIH R21 grant application that you defend orally in front of the committee and must be scheduled within 10 months of passing the qualifying exam.
3. Once you have advanced to candidacy (G5 status), you should register for HBM 690 Graduate Seminar and HBM 699 Dissertation Research (total of 9 credits) during the fall and spring semesters and HBM 800 Full-time Summer Research during the summer sessions (0 credits).
4. All students who have advanced to candidacy must submit a written report to their committee members 6 months after the proposal defense and schedule a face-to-face meeting 12 months after the proposal defense. The "six-month" reports and annual meetings continue until you have been granted permission to schedule the dissertation defense.
5. The Graduate School requires that you be registered for two full semesters of Dissertation Research (fall/spring) before defending your dissertation. The Program also requires a first-author research paper for graduation. It is permissible to defend your dissertation if a first-author manuscript has been submitted and your committee approves the scheduling of the defense.