

Program Regulations:

Residency Requirements: Students are expected to complete the Ph.D. program within four years following entry into the program.

The maximum time limit for completing the degree requirements is six years. Students are expected to study full-time, except under extraordinary circumstances where a person may receive special permission upon petition to the Director of Graduate Studies and Research.

Comprehensive Examination:

Candidates must pass a comprehensive examination within the first two years of entrance to the Ph.D. program. Enrolment for this

examination is limited to two consecutive academic terms and requires successful completion of BMOL-6106EL and/or BMOL-6301EL.

Failure to complete this examination within the required time limits precludes continuation in the doctoral program, unless there are valid

reasons as determined by the program's Administrative council. The comprehensive examination does not count as a credit course.

A Comprehensive Examination Committee will be in charge of evaluating the student. This committee will be composed of at least four

members of the Biomolecular Sciences Program faculty as chosen by the standing BMS Comprehensive Exam Committee (in consultation with the student).

The comprehensive examination will be administered in two parts:

Part I: Written examination. The Comprehensive Examination Committee will create four questions, based on the content of the courses

BMOL 6106 OR BMOL 6301. The student will prepare answers to two of the questions.

The comprehensive examination panel will require the preparation of a grant application, in the NSERC or CIHR format, on a topic not directly related

to the student's thesis. The student will choose the topic in consultation with the supervisory committee. The Comprehensive Exam Committee gives

the student two grant topics and the student selects one topic. The Comprehensive Examination Committee will determine when the proposal is ready

for the oral defence. The student will be expected to make an oral presentation of the project and answer questions from the Comprehensive

Examination Committee. A written evaluation of the student's performance in the oral portion of the examination will be prepared for circulation to the

student, the student's supervisor and the Director of the Program in Biomolecular Sciences. The committee will assign a grade of pass or fail for

each section. In the case of a failure, the student will be given the opportunity to repeat that portion of the comprehensive examination. A second

failure will be grounds for dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

Thesis:

For the Ph.D. degree, either a "standard thesis" or a "thesis by publication" format will be acceptable. The research thesis does not count as a credit course.

Students will be required to present a public seminar and subsequently, to undergo an oral defence of their thesis. The thesis defence committee is composed

of a chair (non-voting), two members of the program, an examiner external to the program and an examiner external to the university. The thesis supervisor

is a member of the committee and is present at the defence, which takes place in camera. The defence committee meets in the absence of the student to

discuss his or her performance and to decide if the thesis is acceptable for the degree or if corrections are required before granting final approval.