

Deadlines and Expectations for Neurobiology Dissertation Committee meetings

Committee Meeting 1 (Year 2):

- Meeting of a preliminary committee (advisor and 2 other faculty)
- Presentation and discussion of a preliminary plan for dissertation research

Deadlines:

- January: Form pro-committee and inform the curriculum office
- February: Meet

Student expectations of faculty:

- Feedback on the preliminary plan

Faculty expectations of the student:

- Knowledge of the background and significance of the preliminary plan
- Knowledge and understanding of experimental designs

Committee Meeting 2 (Year 3) - Oral Examination:

- Meeting of the full dissertation committee (advisor and at least 4 other faculty)
- Oral examination of the dissertation proposal

Deadlines:

- One month after passing the written exam: Form a full committee and choose a chair
- December: Submission of Dissertation Proposal
- 2-4 weeks after submitting the Proposal: Oral examination

Student expectations of faculty:

- Read and think about the dissertation proposal
- Ask penetrating questions regarding the experiments, goals, and the underlying background knowledge

Faculty expectations of student:

- Detailed knowledge of the experimental designs
- Consideration of alternative strategies
- Detailed knowledge of the background knowledge on which the experiments are based
- Solid understanding of neuroscience fundamentals
- Ability to answer questions without help from the advisor

Student expectations of advisor:

- Help in the preparation of the proposal and the oral exam

Committee expectations of advisor:

- Silence (as much as possible)

Committee Meetings 3 and up (Years 3-5):

- Review of progress towards goals of the dissertation

Deadlines:

- June (Year 3): Meeting
- Additional meetings: As required by the committee (approximately every 9 months)

- Two weeks after each meeting: A 1-2-page summary of the meeting. Send to all members and the curriculum office.

Student expectations of faculty:

- Read summaries and think about the progress, the proposed experiments, and the trajectory towards a Ph.D.
- Provide assistance, feedback, and guidance as required and/or requested

Faculty expectations of student:

- Detailed knowledge of the experimental designs
- Consideration of alternative strategies or direction
- Detailed knowledge of the background knowledge on which the experiments are based
- Ability to answer questions about the experiments, designs, goals, significance, etc.
- Written summary of the meeting