Typical PhD Neuroscience training program

Year 1 (BBSP)
Courses:
Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology (NBIO 722 & 723)
Elective? Allowed but not typically taken in 1st year
First-year BBSP meeting group
Three research rotations
Deadlines:
Select a dissertation advisor (~April)
Take preliminary qualifying exam (written exam) in ~August
Form a preliminary dissertation committee within 3-6 months after passing the qualifying exam

Year 2
Courses:
Elective(s)
Communicating Science (presentation skills "P class") (NBIO/CBPH 850) required
Statistics (BBSP 710) or (a stat or programming based stat class, bioinformatics, Comp. Sci. etc)
NBIO 893 Neuroscience Seminars-attend 75% seminars, mini-series, PhD public defenses
Deadlines:
Form a full dissertation committee within 6-9 months after passing the preliminary qual exam
Submit and defend dissertation NRSA proposal (NIH, NSF etc.) not required but summer after year 2 is optimal timing

Year 3
Courses:
Electives (if still necessary) need 2 + stats + P class + seminar attendance
NBIO 893 Neuroscience Seminars-attend 75% seminars, mini-series, PhD public defenses
Start to think about career choices
Deadlines:
By the end of Fall Semester third year the Oral qualifying exam (thesis proposal) should have been passed

Years 4-5
Meet with your committee at least once per year, preferably twice per year.
Write and publish at least one first-author journal article. (first author original research in press to graduate)
Write and defend thesis dissertation.
Get a good job! Allow 1 year minimum for career planning
Deadlines:
It is expected that the time it takes to graduate in Neurobiology is 5 years (including 1st year BBSP). Currently, 5 ½ years is the average time to graduation in Neurobiology.