

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, $5\frac{1}{2}$ years is the average time to graduation in Neurobiology.