



Admission Requirements for the PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences

- Joint Program students must complete at least 18 credits of coursework. This includes six credits per semester in the first year and an additional six in later years. Course selection must be approved by the Joint Program Committee.
- Joint Program students must complete a course in scientific communication and a course in research ethics. Suitable courses are offered at both institutions.
- Joint Program students must pass the Qualifying Exam and advance to candidacy by the end of the second year. The Qualifying Exam consists of a written research proposal followed by an oral defense before the Qualifying Exam Committee.
- The Qualifying Exam Committee must be composed of three faculty members chosen by the student and the student's advisor, including one faculty member from the partner institution, and one Program Examiner, who is a member of the Joint Program Committee. The Program Examiner will be appointed annually and will oversee all Joint Program student Qualifying Exams in that year.
- Joint Program students who have advanced to candidacy must hold biannual Thesis Research Advisor Committee meetings (TRAC/RAC) for assessment of thesis research progress and development of core competencies.
- The TRAC/RAC must include one member from the partner institution.
- Upon completion of thesis research, Joint Program students must submit a written dissertation to a Dissertation Examination Committee (DEC) for review, followed by an oral defense. The DEC will make a recommendation to the Joint Program Committee and the deans of both institutions for awarding of the Doctor of Philosophy degree, upon the deans' approval.

The DEC must include one member from the partner institution and one External Examiner. A member of the partner institution may not serve as the External Examiner.