

Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program Milestones

MS Degree (typically takes 2 years)

Total credits required: 30 credits

Minimum number of course credits: 15

Minimum number of research credits: 6

- Review the VCLS Graduate Student Mentorship Agreement with your mentor during the first month of your MS program
- Establish Supervisory Committee
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of second semester
 - The committee must include at least three USU faculty members
- Program of Study
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of second semester
 - Needs approval of mentor and committee prior to being submitting to the GPC
- Research Proposal Presentation
 - Recommended format
 - Short project description with background, hypothesis, objectives, and experimental outline (will need to be submitted to the SGS)
 - Presentation reviewing your plans
 - Discuss your plans with your mentor ahead of time
 - Should take place before the end of the first year of study
- Toward the end of your first year, you should fill out a self-evaluation of progress form and meet with your supervisory committee to review it
 - This can be done at the same time as your research proposal presentation
- Submission of the thesis to the supervisory committee
 - It is recommended that after completing your research you meet with your committee and discuss what your plans are for your thesis
 - Must occur at least 4 weeks (20 business days) prior to the defense
 - The thesis needs to be approved by the supervisory committee before the thesis defense is scheduled
- Scheduling of the thesis defense
 - The thesis defense must be scheduled with the SGS at least 2 weeks (10 business days) prior to the defense
 - The student and mentor must advertise the thesis defense at least 10 business days prior to the defense

Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program Milestones

BS to PhD Degree (typically takes 5 years)

Total credits required: 70 credits

Minimum number of course credits: 30

Minimum number of research credits: 18

- Review the VCLS Graduate Student Mentorship Agreement with your mentor during the first month of your PhD program
- Establish your Supervisory Committee
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of first year
 - The committee must include at least five faculty members
 - Three members must be from the VCLS department
 - One member must be from another department at USU
- Program of Study
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of first year
 - Needs approval of mentor and committee prior to being submitting to the GPC
- Toward the end of your first year, you should fill out your first annual self-evaluation of progress form and meet with your supervisory committee to review it
- Research Proposal Presentation
 - Recommended format
 - Short project description with background, hypothesis, objectives, and experimental outline (will need to be submitted to the SGS)
 - Presentation reviewing your plans
 - Discuss your plans with your mentor ahead of time
 - Should take place before the end of the 2nd year of study
- Qualifying or Candidacy Exam
 - Recommended during the third year
 - Required three months prior to defending
- Submission of the dissertation to the supervisory committee
 - Must occur at least 6 weeks (30 business days) prior to the defense
 - The dissertation needs to be approved by the supervisory committee before the thesis defense is scheduled
 - Schedule your defense with your committee and the GPC well ahead of time, do it now if this hasn't already been done
- Scheduling of the dissertation defense
 - The dissertation defense must be scheduled with the SGS at least 2 weeks (10 business days) prior to the defense
 - The student and mentor must advertise the dissertation defense at least 10 business days prior to the defense

Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program Milestones

MS, DVM, MD or other health professional degree to PhD (typically takes 3 years)

Total credits required: 42 credits

Minimum number of course credits: 15

Minimum number of research credits: 12

- Review the VCLS Graduate Student Mentorship Agreement with your mentor during the first month of your PhD program
- Establish Supervisory Committee
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of first year
 - The committee must include at least five faculty members
 - Three members must be from the VCLS department
 - One member must be from another department at USU
- Program of Study
 - Recommended by end of first semester
 - Required by end of first year
 - Needs to be approved by mentor and committee prior to submitting it to the GPC
- Research Proposal Presentation
 - Recommended format
 - Short project description with background, hypothesis, objectives, and experimental outline (will need to be submitted to the SGS)
 - Presentation reviewing your plans
 - Discuss your plans with your mentor ahead of time
 - Should take place before the end of the first year of study
- Toward the end of your first year, you should fill out your first annual self-evaluation of progress form and meet with your supervisory committee to review it
 - This can be done at the same time as your research proposal presentation
- Qualifying or Candidacy Exam
 - Recommended during the second year
 - Required three months prior to defending
- Submission of the dissertation to the supervisory committee
 - Must occur at least 6 weeks (30 business days) prior to the defense
 - The dissertation needs to be approved by the supervisory committee before the thesis defense is scheduled
 - Schedule your defense with your committee and the GPC well ahead of time, do it now if this hasn't already been done
- Scheduling of the dissertation defense
 - The dissertation defense must be scheduled with the SGS at least 2 weeks (10 business days) prior to the defense
 - The student and mentor must advertise the dissertation defense at least 10 business days prior to the defense