

The **Graduate Program in Cell and Developmental Biology** provides doctoral research training in *Cell and Developmental Biology* and the *Neurosciences*. Students are prepared for careers of scientific research in academia and industry, as well as other research-oriented fields through formal coursework, independent readings, seminars, and journal clubs - all while emphasizing faculty-supervised research.

There are three primary objectives of the Graduate Program.

1. Acquisition of skills to conduct biomedical research related to cell and developmental biology and the neurosciences.
2. Acquisition of broad-based knowledge fundamental to basic science at the cellular, molecular, and genetic levels with emphasis on developmental biology and neurosciences.
3. Acquisition of ability to generate relevant biomedical research questions and testable hypotheses to explore the inquiry.
4. Develop the ability to communicate with scientific peers in both written and oral formats.

The program in Cell and Developmental Biology is the graduate program of the Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy at MCW. The purpose of this program is to provide state of the art research training leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Cell and Developmental Biology. This is accomplished through a combination of coursework, seminars, journal clubs, and "hands-on" laboratory research in the laboratory of a faculty mentor. To maintain full-time status, graduate students are required to take a minimum of six credits in the summer, nine credits in the fall and nine credits in the spring semesters. Accrual of at least 60 graduate course credits is needed for the PhD degree. Program requirements include annual Responsibility Conduct of Research training and 9 credits of advanced courses. PhD candidacy qualification takes place during the Fall of the second year of training. Qualification requires passing performance in an oral examination as well as a writing NIH-style grant proposal. Starting in the third year of training, students are required to convene and meet with their doctoral dissertation committee. The student must write a 1-2 page summary of the meeting, detailing what was presented and discussed, and any bench-marks or time-lines that were established, scholarly activities and other accomplishments, as well as updating career-related goals. This should be approved by the Thesis Mentor and then distributed to the thesis committee, as well as the graduate program director and coordinator. As part of the training process, it is also required as a minimum that the student thesis research culminate in publication of at least two first-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals. At the time of degree conferral, one should be accepted for publication, while the other can be at the "submitted" stage. Finally, the PhD training culminates with a public presentation of the thesis work followed by a closed examination of the dissertation defense.

Over the past 5 years, the average time from matriculation to successful completion of Doctoral training is 5.3 years, with 91% of the entering students earning the PhD degree.

APPLICANT NAME started their XX year of PhD studies in Fall 20XX. APPLICANT NAME is on track to complete requirements of the PhD degree by XXXX. (To be individualized for each applicant)

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