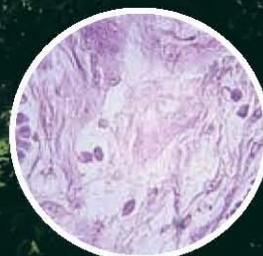


Office of Graduate Biomedical Sciences

2012-2013 Student Handbook



The University of
Alabama at Birmingham

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START-UP BASICS

Blazer ID

Your Blazer ID is vitally important to you while at UAB. It serves as part of your email address, allows you access to your important personal information like your paystub information, and you use it to register for classes. Setting up a Blazer ID is one of the first things you must do. It opens the portals of UAB to you.

For example, if your UAB email address is jdoe@uab.edu, your Blazer ID is going to be jdoe. The Blazer ID is everything before the @uab.edu.

To set up your Blazer ID, go to <https://padlock.dpo.uab.edu/blazerid.html> , and follow the instructions.

Please keep in mind that you should choose a professional Blazer ID/email. Keep email addresses like “sexyme” for your personal/private email accounts.

Email Account

To get a UAB email account, go to https://padlock.dpo.uab.edu/mk_mailbox.html. Note that you must be already registered in the UAB Electronic Phonebook with an alias/BlazerID in order to do this. If you do not have a BlazerID, are not sure if you have one, or do not recall its password, please go (or return) to [BlazerID Central](#) for assistance.

BlazerNET

BlazerNET is your portal to UAB registration, transcripts, news and information, and other areas of interest. You log into BlazerNET with your Blazer ID and password. See the BlazerNET link on the UAB homepage.

Direct Deposit

UAB does not issue paychecks. Instead, they deposit your earnings directly into your bank account, issuing you a pay stub summary only.

To set up direct deposit information:

1. Go to <http://www.uab.edu/adminsystems/>
2. Click on Oracle HR & Finance
3. Under Administrative Systems Status, click on the link “You may log into the application here”
4. Enter your Blazer ID (which is the id you chose MINUS the @uab.edu) and password
5. Click on **I Agree**
6. Click on **UAB Self Service Applications**
7. Click on **Manage Direct Deposit Account** . This is where you enter the pertinent information.

ID Badge/Card Key

You will receive a form to take to Key Control <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/PhysicalSecurity/2147/> to have a photo ID made and receive an ID card that also provides access to the buildings in which you have classes and laboratory rotations. As your rotations continue you may need to have access to additional 2 buildings added. The administrators of those departments or the theme program staff will help to process these requests.

Parking

Parking information for students is found at <http://www.uab.edu/parking/parking/students> . Graduate students can access the commuter student lots if they do not live on campus. In addition, graduate students can access the 9th Avenue deck, 10th Avenue deck, and 5th Avenue deck for a nominal additional fee. All of these facilities' permits are also honored in any commuter lot (Lot 15).

Parking is assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. If demand for deck parking exceeds availability, then a waiting list will be taken for the current academic year only.

After-hours parking is available for certain areas. After-hours is defined as 5 p.m. - 6 a.m. weekdays, and all day weekends. This access is free for any graduate student with a deck permit. For those in commuter or resident student facilities, a \$20 charge applies. Current after-hours locations are:

- **University Boulevard Deck**
- **5th Avenue Deck**
- **Lot 16A (Underneath Education Building)**

Graduate students also have access to the UAB Escort Service (5pm – dawn) and Campus Ride <http://www.uab.edu/parking/campus-ride-a-escort>.

B-ALERT: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AT UAB

UAB's primary concern during any emergency or severe weather situation is the safety of its students, faculty, staff and visitors. UAB's diverse community requires multiple, overlapping means of communicating with the campus, including direct, live communication from UAB Police officers at the scene of an emergency. Communications plans are reviewed frequently to consider alternatives and enhancements in technology.

During any actual emergency or severe weather situation, this site -- www.uab.edu/emergency -- will be the official source of UAB information. In addition, the UAB Emergency Management Team will use B-ALERT, the university's emergency notification system, to communicate through voice calls, SMS text messages and e-mails to the entire campus all at the same time. B-ALERT also integrates with Facebook and Twitter. **The UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline at 205-934-2165** also will be updated as appropriate to provide official updates on the university's and UAB Hospital's opening and closing status

To register for B-ALERT or update your existing information in the system, go to www.uab.edu/balert. All registration is connected to your BlazerID.

Email

B-ALERT e-mails will come from the UAB Emergency Management Team address: UABALERT@uab.edu

All BlazerID-connected UAB e-mail addresses are automatically included in the system; **you will not be able to opt out of receiving these e-mails**. If there are other e-mail accounts where you would like to receive notifications, register those separately in the system.

Text

Register at least one SMS-capable mobile device with the B-ALERT system. Why? Because message delivery in an emergency is usually quicker via this kind of messaging. Any time you register a new SMS text device, you will receive a message allowing you to opt out of the service. Should you choose to opt out, which is not recommended, update your preferences through the registration form at www.uab.edu/balert. Responding to the message will not complete the opting out process.

Telephone

Register your cell, office and home phone numbers in order to receive voice messages at all numbers during a crisis situation.

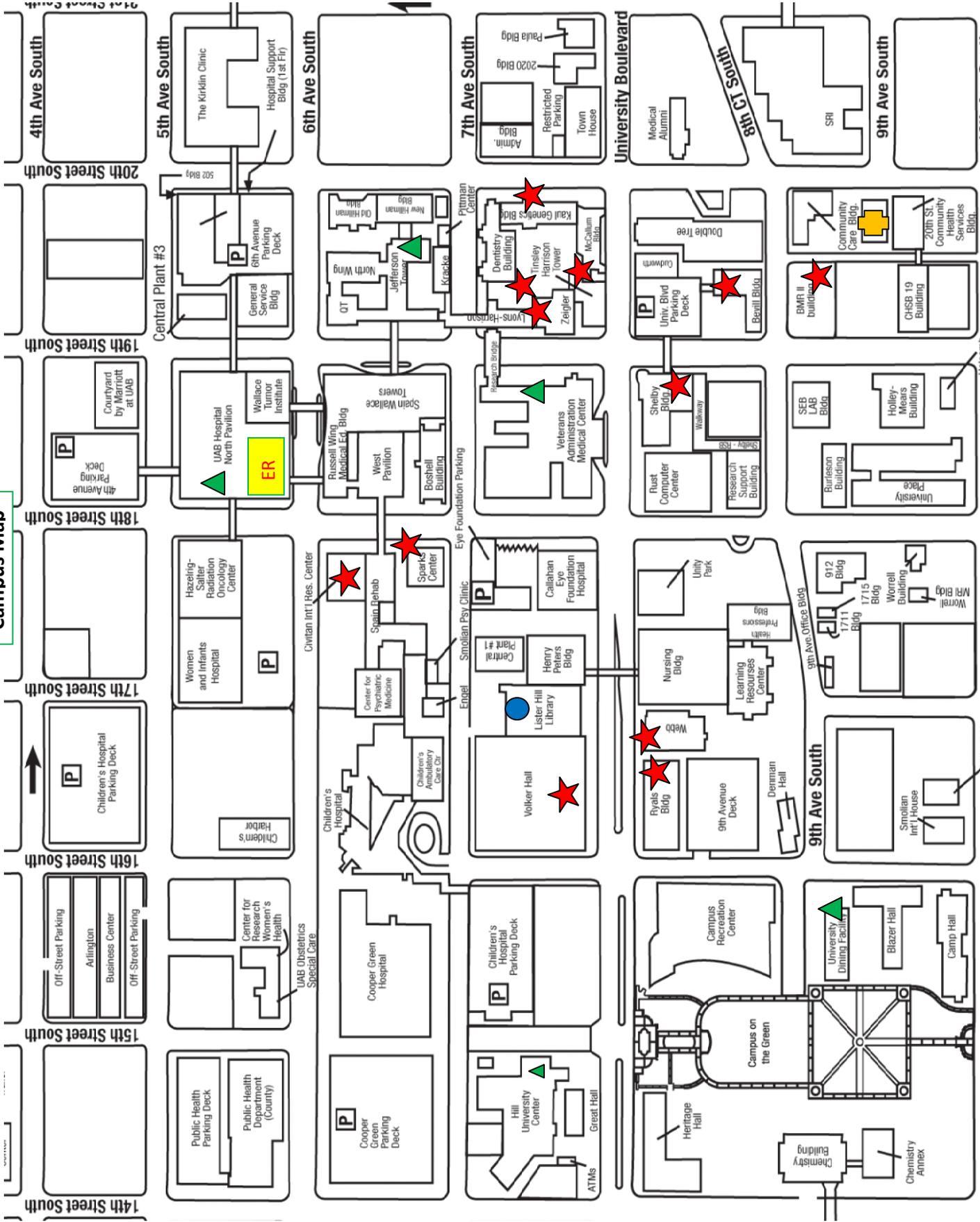
Social Media

Follow B-ALERT on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UABALERT and on Twitter under the name @UABALERT: www.twitter.com/uabalert

Identifying Codes and Numbers

Text messages from the system will come to your cell phone or other handheld device from something called a short code; it will be either 23177 or 63079. Voice calls will originate from B-ALERT at 205-975-8000. Store these numbers/codes and program them all as B-ALERT so you will recognize them as the official source of UAB emergency and/or severe weather information.

Campus Map



-  Research Building
-  Library
-  Cafeteria
-  ER
-  Student Health (930 20th St South)
-  Emergency Room

CAMPUS BUILDING ABBREVIATION KEY

AB	Administration Building
BBRB	Bevill Biomedical Research Building
BDB	Boshell Diabetes Building
BMR2	Bevill Biomedical Research Building II
CBSE	Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering
CH19	Community Health Services Building, 19th Street
CHT	Childrens Hospital Tower
CIRC	Civitan International Research Center
HH	Heritage Hall
HUC	Hill University Center (site of Graduate School Office and Great Hall)
KAUL	Hugh Kaul Human Genetics Building
LHRB	Lyons Harrison Research Building
MCLM	Basic Health Sciences Building (McCallum)
SCS	parks Center
SDB	School of Dentistry Building
SHEL	Shelby Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building
SRI	Southern Research Institute
SW	Spain – Wallace
THT	Tinsley Harrison Tower
VH	Volker Hall
WP	West Pavilion
WTI	Wallace Tumor Institute
ZRB	Zeigler Research Building

COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration announcement emails are sent out approximately 2 weeks prior to the registration date. YOU MUST REGISTER FOR YOUR CLASSES ON TIME. IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE AWAY DURING THE CLASS REGISTRATION PERIOD, CONTACT YOUR THEME PROGRAM OFFICE PRIOR TO YOUR LEAVING SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

Registering for Courses

NOTE: If you need to withdraw from a class or make any changes to your class schedule after you begin the registration process, talk with your Theme Manager first.

Web Registration

You may register online any time after your assigned time until the last day to Drop/Add before classes begin. BlazerNET is available 24/7, but the Add/Drop function within Registration Tools will end on the last day to Drop/Add. If you wish to add a course that is full during late registration, you will have to come in person to the Registrar's Office with a signed Add/Drop form. If you experience difficulty with BlazerNET, please call the Registrar's Office at 934-8222 or email registrar@uab.edu. Please see the [Academic Calendar](#) for the current term for applicable dates.

- **To register for courses, please sign in to [BlazerNET](#).**
Access to BlazerNET requires a BlazerID and password. If you do not have a BlazerID, you may obtain one at [BlazerID Central](#) or you may view the schedule of classes [here](#).
- **How to Register through BlazerNET**
 - ✓ Once logged in to BlazerNET, click on the Student Resources tab.
 - ✓ On the Student Resources tab, see a channel entitled "Registration Tools." All the tools you need to register are available as links within this area.
- **To look up the Course Reference Number for your course(s)**
 - ✓ Click on the "Look Up Classes" link to search the available courses for the term. You may search for classes with several different criteria, but the only block that must be utilized is the *Subject* block.
 - ✓ Once the classes are visible, register for the course(s) by clicking on the empty checkbox to the left of the CRN and clicking on the Register button at the bottom of the screen.
- **If you already know the CRN for your course(s)**
 - ✓ Click on the "Add/Drop Classes" link in the "Registration Tools" channel.
 - ✓ The Add/Drop worksheet will appear. There will be a row of empty blocks. Type in the 5-digit CRN for your course in any of the blocks. If you are registering for more than one course, tab over to another block and enter in all of the courses at one time. (You do not need to type in the subject or number for the course, only the CRN is required!)
 - ✓ Click on the *Register* button at the bottom of the screen when complete.
- **To verify that you have successfully registered**
 - ✓ If you would like a Registration Confirmation, click Registration Confirmation in the "Registration Tools" channel.
 - ✓ If you would like to see your classes in a schedule format, follow these steps:
 - On the Student Resources tab, click on the link "Banner Self-Service."
 - Click on *Student and Financial Aid*
 - Click on *Registration*
 - Click on *Student Detail Schedule* or *Week at a Glance*

- **If you receive a Registration Error Message** Please see the list below of common registration errors and solutions:
 - ✓ **RAC:** A Registration Access Code (RAC) is required for your account. This is a 6-digit number given to you by your advisor.
 - ✓ **CORQ:** Course has a corequisite. The CRN of the required corequisite should follow the CORQ error message. Please submit the courses simultaneously.
 - ✓ **PREQ/TEST SCORE:** Course has a prerequisite or test placement requirement. The CRN or title of the required prerequisite should follow the PREQ error message. See your advisor for permission.
 - ✓ **TIME CONFLICT:** Course has a time conflict with another course already added to your schedule.
 - ✓ **CLOSED SECTION:** There are no more seats available in the course.
 - ✓ **NEED INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION:** Permission of the instructor is required to take this course. Please contact instructor for an online override.
 - ✓ **LEVEL RESTRICTION:** Your classification level is invalid for this course. Contact the department or instructor for online permission.
 - ✓ **Hold:** Holds are on your account which restrict you from registering. Please scroll down until you see a “View Holds” icon. This icon will show your specific holds. Please see the department listed to remove the hold.

NOTE: If you have any special circumstances or wish to audit a course, please see the appropriate instructor or department for BlazerNET permission. If you have any additional problems with registration, please call 934-8222 or contact your Theme Manager.

Withdrawing from Classes

The last day for graduate students to withdraw from courses and still receive a “W” on the transcript will occur no later than in the eleventh week of either spring or fall semester. Check the Academic Calendar on [BlazerNET](#) for the appropriate semester to verify the last date for withdrawal.

Mere cessation of class attendance does not constitute withdrawal, either academically or for tuition charges. If you fail to attend classes rather than properly withdraw (if this is an option), you will receive a final grade of F in the course. Students who wish to withdraw from a class after the Add/Drop date has passed must communicate with their Theme Manager and complete and submit to the Graduate School an academic appeal form.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES – GENERAL INFORMATION

All students in the graduate biomedical sciences are required to have health insurance. Students may choose to be covered by VIVA UAB or provide their own private insurance. If the student elects to be covered by their private insurance, verification of comparable coverage must be on file with the UAB [Student Health Office](#). The program will pay *only* for single coverage VIVA UAB health insurance. Spouse and children are separate and are to be paid for by the graduate student. For additional information regarding health insurance and policy, please contact:

Candace Ragsdale
UAB Student Health Services
Room 221, Community Health Services Building
933 South 19th Street
TEL: 205.934.3580
Email: craggs@uab.edu

What should you do if you get sick?

If it is a non-emergency, phone or go directly to the UAB Student Health Services Office at the address listed above. The hours of the clinic are Monday – Thursday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm (last patient is taken at 4:00 pm); Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. It is advisable to call in advance for an appointment because this keeps your waiting time to a minimum. Appointed patients will be taken before drop-in patients, unless the drop-in patient is of an emergency nature. There is physician on call 24 hours a day. If you have any emergency after regular clinic hours, please call the Page Operator at 934.3411 and ask for the Student Health physician on call.

Appointments

Student Health Services is located in the Family and Community Medicine Building at 930 20th Street South, Suite 221. The Community Health Building sits on the corner of 10th Avenue South and 20th Street.

There is free parking in the Family Practice parking lot on the north side of the building.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (M-Th)

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (F)

Closed daily from 12:00-1:00

Call 205-934-3581 to schedule an appointment.

Walk-In Acute Illness Hours

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (M-F). In order to better serve our patients, walk-ins will be limited to acute illnesses and injuries. All routine appointments, follow ups, routine procedures and referral requests will require an appointment.

FINANCIAL BASICS

GBS Student Financial Support

All students accepted into GBS programs receive an annual stipend and fully paid tuition and fees. Single coverage health insurance is also provided at no cost to the student through VIVA Health UAB. First-year students are funded through their theme programs by Graduate School Fellowships and occasionally by other national and University fellowships. In subsequent years students are supported through their advisor's research grants, institutional funds or training grants. In addition, highly qualified students are encouraged to apply for individual fellowship awards, with the guidance of their advisors.

See **Fellowships & Awards** <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/students/current/funding/43720/> for additional fellowship information and resources.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year, upon successful completion of requirements for admission to candidacy, the student's annual stipend will increase by \$1,000.

GBS Policy Regarding Stipend Increases for Students Admitted to Candidacy

For GBS students who are applying for admission to candidacy, the \$1,000 stipend increase will be effective the start of the next pay period following the GBS Business Officer receiving documentation that the candidacy paperwork has been approved by the Graduate School. It is the student's responsibility to forward the "approval" email from the Graduate School to Scott Austin (scotta@uab.edu).

In order to register for dissertation research credits for the subsequent term, the forms must be processed by the dates posted on the Graduate School web site (<http://www.uab.edu/graduate/deadline-dates>).

Updated 11.15.2012

Tax Information: Understanding the taxes on financial aid to graduate students

The following information is from the UAB website:
(<http://financialaffairs.uab.edu/content.asp?id=343657>).

Types of Financial Aid:

1. Scholarships:

- Scholarships are generally given to graduate students to cover tuition and fees.
- If there is no requirement for service to the university or a third party, a scholarship is not subject to state, local, or federal taxes.
- Most scholarships are applied directly to student fees.
- No W-2 form is issued by UAB.

2. Fellowships*:

- Fellowships typically provide a stipend to defray living expenses, tuition and fees.
- If no service is required to receive the fellowship, it is exempt from state and local taxes.
- Any portion of a fellowship in excess of tuition, fees, and required books and equipment is subject to federal income tax.
- UAB does not withhold taxes from fellowships or issue W-2 forms.
- Students are advised to pay quarterly estimated federal taxes.
- * *Most 1st year GBS students are funded by Graduate School Fellowships or UAB Comprehensive Minority Faculty and Student Fellowships*

3. Assistantships*:

- Assistantships are compensation given for work performed.
- The most common forms of assistantships are teaching and research assistantships.
- These awards are not exempt from taxes.
- UAB will deduct taxes from checks and issue a W-2 form at the end of the year.
- * *Graduate students funded by grants and sources other than individual fellowships and training grants are considered to receive assistantships*

What about FICA?

- FICA is the social security tax.
- Fellowships are exempt from FICA.
- Graduate students receiving financial aid are exempt from FICA if they are enrolled in at least 3 credit hours of classes each quarter the exemption is claimed.
- You must enroll on time to be eligible.
- There are no limits on the number of hours worked.

What is the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit?

The lifetime learning tax credit benefits graduate students.

- After June 30, 1998, anyone paying tuition will be eligible for a tax credit.
- Students will be able to take a tax credit of up to \$1,000 on 1998 tax returns for tuition payments made in 1998. The tax credit is 20% of up to \$5,000 in 1998 and 1999. It increases to 20% of up to \$10,000 in 2000.

Interest on Student Loans

Beginning in 1998, interest paid on student loans will be tax deductible for up to 5 years of interest payments. There are restrictions. The more money you make, the less interest you can deduct. Students will have to itemize deductions to take advantage of this. Lenders will be required to report to students and the IRS if the interest on a student loan exceeds \$600 per year.

Some Common Fellowship Programs

- Graduate School Fellowships
- UAB Comprehensive Minority Faculty and Student Development Fellowships
- NSF Fellowships
- NIH Fellowships

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How do I know what kind of financial aid I have?

Answer: You should receive a letter from your department or program director describing the nature of the award. Any time the award changes, the letter should be reissued. If you don't have a letter, ask for one.

2. I am paid on my advisor's research grant, but I am just working on my thesis. Why are taxes being deducted?

Answer: You have an assistantship. A research grant is awarded to the university for the purpose of conducting research, not training. Your advisor cannot give you fellowship support from a research grant.

3. If I have a fellowship, how do I pay estimated taxes?

Answer: Estimated taxes are due four times per year, starting on April 15th. You can get the forms, [1297 Publ 505 Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax](#) (560K, Adobe PDF) and [1196 Publ 520 Scholarships and Fellowships](#) (75K, Adobe PDF), from the IRS web site--
<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>, as linked above--or from the Graduate School Office, HUC 511.

4. I have a fellowship, but I supplement it by teaching a class. Will any taxes be deducted from my check?

Answer: Taxes will be deducted only from the portion of your funding that is a teaching assistantship. Because this is compensation, it is fully taxable.

5. I am on an NIH Training Grant. Is this a fellowship or an assistantship?

Answer: NIH Training Grants (e.g., T32, T35, T90) are treated like fellowships.

Graduate School Incentive Program to Promote Individual Fellowship Applications

The *Graduate School Incentive Program to Promote Individual Fellowship Applications* will provide \$250 awards to students who submit fellowship applications and \$1000 additional support to students who receive a fellowship award. Instructions at <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/incentive-program-for-individual-fellowship-application>.

Graduate Student Travel

Graduate student travel for professional reasons may apply to trips for the purpose of attending a scientific conference or learning new techniques. With appropriate documentation travel costs can be paid by grant or other sources. The specific documentation required will be determined by the student's status as a *research assistant* (employee policies apply) or as a *trainee/fellow* (i.e., funded by a training grant or individual fellowship).

Documentation requirements for travel reimbursement:

- **Trainees**
Trainee travel <http://uabfinancial.infomedia.com/content.asp?id=208890>
Trainee travel expense report
<http://main.uab.edu/sys/images/vpad/pdf/controller/traineeexprpt.pdf>
- **Research Assistants**
Research Assistants <http://uabfinancial.infomedia.com/content.asp?id=208886>

International Professional Travel

From the Office of the Provost:

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the development of a new Web-based process for faculty, staff and students to request and receive approval for UAB-related foreign travel. Beginning March 1, all UAB-Related Foreign Travel Requests must be made online through the UAB Forms site at www.uab.edu/uabforms. **UAB policy requires prior presidential approval for all UAB-related foreign travel, including for all students who participate in Study Away programs and/or travel overseas as part of UAB-related activities.**

Faculty and staff may direct questions regarding the online foreign travel request to the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Development/Faculty Affairs at 205-934-0513 or peelc@uab.edu. Students may direct questions to the Office of Study Away at 205-975-6611 or studyabroad@uab.edu.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

HIPAA Compliance:

www.hipaa.uab.edu/

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and The University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System (UABHS) continue to implement policies and procedures necessary to comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Our priority at UAB/UABHS remains the highest respect for the privacy of our patients and research participants and the protection of their personal health information.

The UAB HIPAA site is designed to provide you with information regarding UAB/UABHS compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). A variety of resources are provided within this website to help explain how the HIPAA regulations affect you as an employee, temporary employee, student, volunteer, faculty or contractor at UAB/UABHS. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Go to <http://www.hipaa.uab.edu/contacts.htm> to see a list of staff.

IRB - Institutional Review Board for Human Use:

www.uab.edu/irb

Initial IRB Training

You need UAB IRB training if you are an employee or student at UAB or TCHA and you

- are listed as an Investigator or "key personnel" (i.e., engaged in the design, conduct, analysis, or reporting of research) on the IRB protocol or funding application; or
- screen potential participants and/or obtain informed consent; or
- have IRB-related responsibilities.

You need UAB IRB training if you are not affiliated with UAB or TCHA and you

- work at another institution that has an IRB Authorization Agreement whereby the UAB IRB is the "IRB of record"; or
- work at another institution and hold an Individual Investigator Agreement whereby the UAB IRB is your "IRB of record."

You do not need UAB IRB training if you

- are not affiliated with UAB or TCHA in any way (e.g., student, employee, consultant); **and**
- work at another institution that has its own IRB.

In these cases, you should have your research work reviewed by your IRB.

Any one (1) of the options listed below can be used to fulfill the 4-credit requirement for initial IRB training.

Click the course names for descriptions and instructions:

- CITI Online: [**CITI Basic—Biomedical or Behavioral—Course in Human Research Protections**](#), University of Miami

- NIH Online: **Protecting Human Research Participants**, National Institutes of Health
- UAB Online: **Investigator 101 WebCT Course—Initial** (requires BlazerID and RealPlayer)
- UAB Course: **GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity**
- Research Coordinator Training Program: **Six-session course offered twice each year**
- For New UAB Researchers: **Human Subjects Protection Training** from your previous institution
- For Non-UAB International Researchers and Staff: **FHL**, Family Health International



Mail or deliver all IRB materials and correspondence to

Room 470, Administration Building (AB)
 701 20th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0104
 Phone 205-934-3789 — Fax 205-934-1301

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC):

Access IACUC Training through BlazerNet on the Home Page under Compliance Courses (What Training Do I Need? Working with Animals)

The IACUC is responsible for overseeing all aspects of animal care and use at UAB in accordance with federal regulatory agencies and accrediting organization requirements. At UAB, an "animal" is defined as any traditional laboratory animal (mouse, rat, rabbit, etc.), farm animals, wildlife, aquatic animal and some invertebrate species.

To see your requirements for IACUC training, go to BlazerNET: <https://blazernet.uab.edu/cp/home/displaylogin> .

1. Log in with your BlazerID and password.
2. Click on the Research tab.
3. Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and look for the Compliance Courses channel/area.
4. Click on the IACUC Training link.

Before you are able to work with animals at UAB you must:

- Schedule training with the IACUC office or provide evidence of appropriate prior training. Students must complete the following training items, accessible through BlazerNet: (1) Basic training in rules, regulations, ethics and (2) species-specific training. Items 1 and 2 are on-line training modules (approx. 3 hrs).
- Be listed on an approved protocol (existing or new). The Principal Investigator (PI) must have faculty status.
- Apply for access to the appropriate animal facilities.
- Participate in the UAB Occupational Health Program, including an initial health screening for personnel exposed to research animals.
- Understand the protocol and what your responsibilities are.

You are required to submit to a copy of your IACUC training certificate and a copy of the IACUC approval letter for your project to the Coordinator for the Scholarly Activity, VH109C.

The [IACUC](mailto:iacuc@uab.edu) can be contacted at: iacuc@uab.edu

[Tip Sheet for Students Participating in Research Involving Human or Animal Subjects.](#)

Radiation Safety Training:

<http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/radiationsafety/radiationsafety.html>

To register for the RSTC, call the Radiation Safety Office at **934-4751** or **934-2487**.

A certificate of training will be awarded to those individuals who:

- complete the in-class portions of the RSTC **AND**
- pass the written examination **AND**
- fulfill their baseline bioassay requirements

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability, you aren't at a disadvantage. UAB Disability Support Services (DSS) provides a broad array of services and technologies to make the UAB campus—and a UAB education—accessible for everyone. For more information, continue reading below, review the [Transition Handbook](#) (pdf) or contact us at dss@uab.edu.

Examples of Services

DSS handles each request for services individually, which ensures you'll receive the accommodations that are appropriate for you. Here are just a few examples of common services DSS can provide (not a comprehensive list):

- priority registration;
- extended time for exams;
- sign language interpreters;
- books in alternative formats such as Braille, books on tape, and large print;
- tape recording of lectures;
- note-taking assistance; and
- testing environments with reduced distractions.

Even computers are more accessible. Features include the following:

- screen reader applications;
- screen magnifier applications;
- large monitors;
- disabled-accessible workstations;
- ergonomic keyboards;
- closed-captioning;
- Braille translation software; and
- voice-to-text software.

This list does not include all the services and equipment available. If you have a specific accommodation request, please inform DSS.

DSS does not provide financial aid, attendant (personal) care, transportation services, or tutoring.

How to Register

Registering for services is simple. First, contact DSS at (205) 934-4205 (voice) or (205) 934-4248 (TDD), or visit 516 Hill University Center. You must present documentation of disability to receive DSS services. After DSS receives your completed documentation, you will meet individually with a member of the staff to discuss your accommodations. It's best to register with DSS when you apply to UAB.

Students must register with DSS to receive services; therefore, it is suggested that students with a disability register with DSS as soon as possible to provide the student with the best possible outcome and assistance.

UAB Graduate Student Ombudsman

Andy Marsch / marsch@uab.edu
Hill University Center, Room 110
205.934.4175



COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Counseling & Wellness Center offers no cost, confidential counseling related to personal growth, human development and interpersonal relationships. Our services are available to all currently-enrolled UAB students.

We can provide you with confidential counseling, educational materials, and a variety of programs focusing on your overall health. The Center's philosophy comes from a personality model that identifies five dimensions of optimal health: physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual. We believe that wellness is dependent on our conscious commitment to grow and seek improvement in all of these areas.

Programs and events held throughout the year are designed to provide opportunities to enhance wellness and demonstrate that healthy living can be both practical and enjoyable.

For more information or to contact the Counseling and Wellness Center, please call 205-934-5816 or visit <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/life/counseling/>.

Women's Counseling Center

The Women's Counseling Center at UAB provides confidential personal counseling services (non-academic) to UAB students. Our licensed professional counselor can assist you in dealing with issues such as eating disorders, relationship problems, rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or managing your stress. The center can also provide you with information and resources regarding other services in the UAB community and Birmingham area.

[Set Up An Appointment With the Women's Counseling Center](#)

Visit their website at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/life/33750/> for more information.

OFFICE OF EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Goals

- Fully implement and regularly assess UAB policies related to affirmative action and equal opportunity.
- Explore creative ways to promote diversity and a university climate that is inviting and sustaining for all and to help all members of the community to understand and learn from each other.
- Actively foster and maintain effective external relations and collaborations in the city, state and nation that enhance support for programs of diversity and equity.
- Develop and implement activities to enhance external support for equity and diversity programs with particular emphasis on minority medical programs, undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships.

Available Graduate Fellowships

The Comprehensive Minority Student Development Program Graduate Fellowships

(\$23,000 plus tuition and fees)

Graduate Fellowships are available to qualified African American students, newly enrolled at UAB and seeking to earn a Ph.D. degree. Applicants must be United States citizens or permanent United States residents and not hold a degree higher than a bachelor in order to be eligible to receive a fellowship. "These fellowships are for beginning graduate students only." The Office for Equity and Diversity will provide fellowship support for three years and the particular department must agree to provide an additional one or two years of fellowship support as needed and assign a faculty mentor to assist the student.

The Equity and Diversity Enhancement Program Graduate Fellowships

(\$23,000 plus tuition and fees)

Graduate Fellowships are available to qualified underrepresented minority or women students, newly enrolled at UAB and seeking to earn a Ph.D. degree. Applicants must be United States citizens or permanent United States residents and not hold a degree higher than a bachelor in order to be eligible to receive a fellowship. "These fellowships are for beginning graduate students only." The Office for Equity and Diversity will provide fellowship support for three years and the particular department must agree to provide an additional one or two years of fellowship support as needed and assign a faculty mentor to assist the student.

UAB Office for Equity & Diversity
401 Campbell Hall / 1300 University Blvd
Tel: 205.834.8762
Website: www.uab.edu/equitydiversity/

STUDENT PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Graduate Student Research Days:

<http://www.uab.edu/graduate/graduate-student-research-days>

Competition Rules

1. The competition is open to all degree-seeking UAB graduate students. Students must be enrolled during the semester in which the competition is held. All participants must have data to present. Therefore, you must be in the 2nd year of your program or beyond. Because postdoctoral fellows are eligible to judge the competition, no postdocs will be allowed to compete.
2. The competition will be limited to 50 master's students, competing on February 23, and 150 doctoral students, competing on February 24 & 25. These limits will be strictly enforced and will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis for **eligible** participants.
3. The presentations are oral (no posters). Computers (pre-loaded with the presentations) and LCD projectors will be provided by the Graduate School.
4. The research project must represent research pursued at UAB in the current academic year.
5. The student must follow principles of responsible conduct to research.
6. Students must use the abstract form available on the GSRD homepage, www.uab.edu/graduate/researchday, and must submit the abstract electronically by clicking the rectangle on the bottom of page 2 labeled "Press here once to send the form."
7. Each entrant is required to submit a typed abstract of **no more than 250 words** in length describing the research project. Abstracts are due no later than 12:00 noon in January (see website for exact date). A student will only be allowed to submit ONE abstract. It is essential that the abstract embody the points listed in #16 below.
8. The entire abstract form must be filled out completely before clicking the "submit" button. Your mentor should be aware that you are submitting an abstract and if you are accepted into the competition, will be notified of your abstract submission.
9. All PowerPoint or PDF presentations (Microsoft Office 2007-PC compatible) that will be used in the competition must be **brought by the student (no runners)** to the Graduate School on a flash drive in accordance with the following schedule:
 - a. Master's presentations are due in the Graduate School offices, HUC 511, no later than 7:00 p.m. on (see website for exact dates)
 - b. ALL Doctoral presentations are due in the Graduate School offices, HUC 511, no later than 7:00 p.m. on (see website for exact dates).
10. Each student will have NO MORE than 5 minutes to upload the FINAL version of her/his presentation according to the schedule listed in #9. If the student has technical issues that take longer than the allotted 10 minutes, then the student must work out the issues elsewhere (there is a computer lab on the 4th floor of the HUC) and return before the 7:00 p.m. deadline on the day the student's presentation is due.
11. Do NOT email your presentation. It will NOT be accepted. **You will not be allowed to bring a disk, CD, USB drive, or any storage media into the competition or change your presentation the day of the competition.**
12. Students will be immediately disqualified for the following reasons:
 - a. Treating fellow student participants or Graduate School personnel in a non-professional way when uploading your presentation or during the competition
 - b. Being disruptive during presentations (repeatedly entering and leaving; talking)
 - c. Trying to change your presentation at the competition
13. If you are disqualified for any reason, your mentor/advisor and program director will be notified.
14. Where multiple people are involved in the research, the student must acknowledge them within the presentation.

15. The presentation—although not judged specifically on presentation skills—must be unified, coherent, and delivered according to appropriate standards for formal public address.
16. The presentation will be judged on the following criteria:
 - a. Creativity (if applicable)—Originality in subject, research question(s), approach, analysis, and interpretation
 - b. Approach—Thesis statement, problem statement and scope, research plan, ties to related and future work
 - c. Thoroughness—Completeness, including experimental replication and evidence-supported conclusions
 - d. Skill—Student skill, type and level of supervision, use of equipment
 - e. Clarity —Precision of purpose, procedures, and conclusions; orderly presentation of data, results, and conclusions; answers to oral questions
 - f. Abstract—Adequacy, clarity, conciseness
17. Each participant will be limited to **12 minutes for presentation, with 3 additional minutes for questions from the judging panel**. Timekeepers will enforce both of these time limits strictly.
18. The research project must be under the direction of a member of the UAB Graduate Faculty.
19. Submission of an abstract implies that any required IRB or IACUC approval is complete.
20. Co-presentations will not be allowed.

Professional Development Program:

<http://www.uab.edu/graduate/programs/professional-development-program>

Today's researchers, scientists, and academics face an increasingly competitive world. This is true not only in their fields of study, but in the areas of professional presentations, university teaching, publishing, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and fellowship and grant writing. Indeed, many leading institutions view these communication abilities as prerequisites for career advancement. This is why UAB's Professional Development Program offers ongoing support for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars who want to take advantage of the school's resources to enhance their skills. Under the direction of [Dr. Julia S. Austin](#), the program offers semester-long credit courses as well as day-long workshops in a variety of areas, such as

- Career Support & Advancement
- [Academic & Grant Writing](#)
- [Teaching at the College Level](#)
- Presentation & Discussion Skills
- [Academic English for Internationals](#)
- Pronunciation & Accent Improvement

Click on [Professional Development Courses](#) and [Professional Development Workshops](#) for a detailed list of offerings. To view special courses and sections designed for English language learners, see [Academic English for Internationals](#). Check out the [Current Schedule](#) for a list of available offerings.

Graduate Student Association (GSA):

<http://www.uab.edu/gsa/>

UAB graduate students are represented by the Graduate Student Association (GSA), which works closely with the Graduate School and other offices of the university administration in formulating policy and meeting student needs. All graduate students are automatically members of the GSA, and the GSA Senate is composed of student representatives from graduate programs. Interested students should contact any GSA officer if they would like to become a GSA Senator

Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA):

<http://www.uab.edu/bgsa/>

The Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) was founded in 1993. We are dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and social and political awareness with respect to African-Americans at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In an effort to make our members' time here at UAB more enjoyable, we sponsor social events, pertinent forums dedicated to issues of interest in the African American community at our Black Lecture Series "Meeting of the Minds", activism opportunities, an annual conference and much more! Come and see for yourself at our next general body meeting.

UAB Graduate Career Awareness and Trends (GCAT):

<http://www.uab.edu/gcat/>

Graduate Careers Awareness and Trends is a student-initiated and student-run informal discussion group open to all graduate students and postdocs. It is sponsored by the Comprehensive Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Autoimmunity Center, the [UAB Graduate School](#), [UAB Graduate Student Association](#), and the [UAB Post-Doc Association](#).

The GCAT hosts a monthly [seminar](#) highlighting careers for scientists outside academia. Students and postdocs may also register for our annual [Career Development Workshop](#). This is a two-day workshop that includes speakers from nonacademic sectors including biotech companies, pharmaceutical companies, patent law, and government agencies as well as from academia including UAB and local small colleges.

Graduate Biomedical Student Outreach (GBSO)

The Graduate Biomedical Student Outreach Committee (GBSO) serves to meet the needs of the students in Graduate Biomedical Science themes, associated programs and departments through programming and events that encourage interaction between students, faculty and the greater scientific community. It is our mission to bridge the temporal and disciplinary divides amongst PhD trainees and candidates at UAB in order to enrich the academic environment, stimulate prosperous collaboration, and foster a climate that is inclusive of all students in the biomedical sciences.

Scientists and Engineers for America (SEA):

<http://www.sefora.org/students/>

SEA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that encourages technically-trained citizens to become more engaged in US politics and the policy-making process. For more information, contact the current president: Desmond Villalba at drvill@uab.edu.

For all Graduate School resources, policies and guidelines see the Graduate School website at

<http://www.uab.edu/graduate/>

GBS FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM

Theme-Specific Course Recommendations

All GBS students are required to take 3 common courses: GBS 707, 708 and 709, before beginning theme-specific courses (see below for your theme's recommended first year curriculum).

NOTE -- Additional course and/or other requirements may be required as specified by their chosen theme as described below. In consultation with the theme director, a cross-theme curriculum may be designed to meet the specific research interests of individual GBS students.

All incoming GBS students will take 3 common courses in Basic Biosciences:

GBS 707 – Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17, 2012)

GBS 708 – Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22, 2012)

GBS 709 – Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20, 2012)

Themes may have additional courses in place for their first year students to run concurrent with GBS Basic Biosciences courses. Then, beginning Nov 26, all students will go into more theme-specific courses. Theme recommendations are listed below:

Biochemistry & Structural Biology Theme students:	GBS 780 – BSB Lab Methods
Cancer Biology Theme students:	GBS 710 – Cell Signaling
Cell, Molecular, & Developmental Biology Theme students:	GBS 710 – Cell Signaling
Genetics & Genomics Theme students:	GBS 724 – Principles of Genetics
Immunology Theme students:	GBS 740 – Introduction to Immunology Part 1
Microbiology Theme students:	GBS 768 – Communicating Science
Neuroscience Theme students: *NESC theme students will also take GBS 734-Neuro Hist Lit Disc JC, which runs concurrently with all other courses in the Fall Semester.	GBS 731 – Principles of Cellular Neurosci <i>This course begins Oct 23. NESC theme students start this course instead of GBS 709.</i>
Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine Theme students:	GBS 704 – Intro Experimental Medicine

All students will also participate in Lab Rotations as specified by their theme directors/managers.

The entire first year curriculum, arranged with Theme recommendations, is found below.

Biochemistry & Structural Biology Theme (BSB)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 780: BSB Lab Methods (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 781: Molecular Enzymology (Jan 2-28)

GBS 782: Molecular Genetics (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 783: RNA Biology (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 784: Stem Cell Biology (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Cancer Biology Theme (CANB)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 710: Cell Signaling (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 720: Genomic Structure & Function (Jan 2-28)

GBS 774: Cancer Immunology (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 770: Pathogenesis & Pathobiology of Cancer (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 753: Pharmacology & Molecular Medicine (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Cell, Molecular, and Development Biology Theme (CMDB)

The following courses are offered through GBS or the CMDB theme but they are not required by CMDB. CMDB has an open curriculum driven by the scientific and research interests of the student. Courses offered by any theme will count toward meeting CMDB course requirements.

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 710: Cell Signaling (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 720: Genomic Structure & Function OR GBS 750: Nerves, Muscles & Bones (Jan 2-28)*

GBS 712: Cellular & Molecular Aspects of Developmental Biology (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 714: Developmental Neuroscience (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 784: Stem Cell Biology (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

*Recommended. Alternatively, CMDB students may choose between any of the first year classes offered during this block.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Genetics and Genomics Theme (GGS)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 724: Principles of Genetics: Inheritance & Disease (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 720: Genomic Structure & Function (Jan 2-28)

GBS 721: Genetic Epidemiology (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 722: GGS Bioinformatics (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 723: Model Systems for Genetic & Epigenetic Analysis (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Immunology Theme (IMM)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 740: Intro to Immunology Part 1 (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 740: Intro to Immunology Part 2 (Jan 2-28)

GBS 745: Neuroimmunology (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 741: Lymphocyte Biology (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 744: Mucosal Immunology (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Microbiology Theme (MIC)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 768: Communicating Science (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 760: Prokaryotic Genes & Molecular Biology (Jan 2-28)

GBS 762: Virology (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 763: Microbial Pathogenesis (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 764: Structural Biology (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Neuroscience Theme (NESC)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 731: Principles of Cell Neuroscience (Oct 23-Dec 19)

GBS 734: Historical Literature Discussion (Aug 14-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 732: Grad Neuro (Jan 2-Feb 25)

GBS 791: Grad Neuro Discussion (Jan 2-Feb 25)

GBS 714: Developmental Neuroscience (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 733: Diseases of the Nervous System (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

GBS 737: Student Summer Seminars (May 23-Sep 12)

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine Theme (PBMM)

FALL SEMESTER (Aug 14-Dec 19, 2012)

GBS 795: Lab Rotation 1 (Aug 27-Nov 16) – Poster Sessions Nov 15 & 16

GBS 707: Basic Biochemistry and Metabolism (Aug 14-Sep 17)

GBS 708: Basic Genetics and Molecular Biology (Sep 18-Oct 22)

GBS 709: Basic Biological Organization (Oct 23-Nov 20)

GBS 704: Intro to Experimental Medicine (Nov 26-Dec 19)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013 but you register for it in Spring Semester.

SPRING SEMESTER (Jan 2-Apr 22, 2013)

GBS 796: Lab Rotation 2 (Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013) – Poster Sessions Feb 7 & 8

GBS 750: Nerves, Muscles, & Bones (Jan 2-28)

GBS 751: Heart, Lung, & Kidney (Jan 29-Feb 25)

GBS 752: GI, Endocrine, & Immune Systems (Feb 26-Mar 25)

GBS 753: Pharmacology & Molecular Medicine (Mar 26-Apr 22)

Note: Next Lab Rotation is Feb 11-Apr 19 but you register for it in Summer Semester.

SPRING BREAK: April 23-26 (if no course conflicts)

SUMMER SEMESTER (Apr 29-Aug 9, 2013)

GBS 797: Lab Rotation 3 (Feb 11-Apr 19) – Poster Sessions Apr 18 & 19: Register in summer

FALL SEMESTER of second year

BY 755: Biometry (Biostats requirement)

GRD 717: Principles of Scientific Integrity (Ethics requirement)

Rotation Note: For students who did their 1st rotation during Summer 2012, your 2nd rotation will be Aug 27-Nov 16; your 3rd rotation will be Nov 19, 2012-Feb 8, 2013.

GENERAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

General requirements for first year students:

- a) Students making a C or lower in a first-year GBS course must retake the course.
- b) Receiving a C in the same course twice (or failing to complete the same course twice) will result in dismissal from the GBS program.
- c) 3 Cs in any combination of first-year courses will result in dismissal from GBS program.
- d) Students must achieve B or better in all required first year courses of his/her selected theme before advancing to the qualifying exam in that theme.
- e) A working knowledge of the content of the 3 core topics is expected of all GBS students. If a student does not pass any of the 3 core 1 (Fall semester) courses, he/she will be required to retake that course. If a passing grade is not obtained in the second attempt, the student will be dismissed from the GBS program.
- f) Appeals for student continuation when the guidelines described above recommend dismissal will be made at the theme director's discretion. All appeals must be forwarded to the Theme Directors Liaison Committee for a final judgment to ensure consistency among themes.
- g) The Biostatistics course (BY 755) will be offered in the fall term of the second year. The Bioethics course (GRD 717) will run concurrently for the entire semester. These courses are normally taken at the beginning of the second year, and should be completed by the end of the second year unless special permission is obtained from the student's theme director.
- h) Tutoring is available for first year GBS students. If a student needs a tutor, he or she should contact his or her Theme Manager, who should inform the Theme Director and consult regarding a tutor recommendation. The Theme Manager can then connect the student in need to the recommended tutor(s).

General requirements for second year and beyond:

- a) At least 3 advanced courses* will be required for students in all GBS themes. Each theme defines what constitutes an advanced course* and may display on their website pre-approved advanced courses. If a course is not listed, then the student must contact the Program Manager or Theme Director to see if the course qualifies. Each theme may require more than 3 advanced courses*, particularly if the advanced courses* are 2 hours credit. One of the advanced courses* can be an off-site course such as those offered by Cold Spring Harbor, but this must be approved ahead of time by the Theme Director (or theme curriculum committee) and the mentor. These courses are typically at least one week long and have class/lab times of 40 hours or more.

*The three advanced courses have to be 700 level classes to count as "advanced courses". Completion of the course with a grade of "B" or better is required to count toward the advanced courses requirement. Other courses, such as 500 or 600 level classes, can be taken for graduate credit, but they will not count towards the "three advanced courses" requirement.

- b) The mentor and the student's thesis committee will decide the appropriateness of all advanced courses taken by each student.
- c) Graduate classes can be taken off-site, such as those for GBS students at Hudson Alpha, with the prior approval of the Theme Director and mentor.
- d) The Graduate School requires that 48 credit hours should be completed prior to admission to candidacy. GBS students taking the standard course load (9 credit hours during the fall, spring and summer semesters) will fulfill this requirement before the end of the second year.
- e) Participation in a journal club will be required for all GBS students in both the Fall and Spring semesters until graduation.

Note that individual themes may have additional requirements for their participating students.

Exams and Grading

Examinations in GBS 707,708,709 and selected other GBS courses will be mixed format examinations (essay, short answer, and/or multiple choice). The course instructors that have lectured on the topics to be tested, the heads of the relevant lecture blocks, and the course director will determine the exact composition of each examination. All examinations will be closed book and will be held for a maximum of 3 hours each. For in-class examinations, the use of dictionaries, calculators, and other electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, pagers, etc.) will be at the discretion of the course director.

Each examination will be graded and returned to the students within 2 weeks. Grades will be determined on the basis of the following criteria: **A**: scores that are > 1 standard deviation (SD) above the class mean; **B**: scores that are +/- 1 SD around the class mean; **C**: scores that are between 1 and 2 SD below the class mean; **F**: scores that are greater than 2 SD below the class mean. In special circumstances, the grading scale can be adjusted for the class as a whole (i.e., "curved") at the discretion of the course master and Graduate Theme Director.

The Honor System is a part of the exam process. The Honor System seeks to establish a fair academic environment and to maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct. If any student feels these standards are not met, he or she is able to defer to a fair and impartial body without prejudice, which will first investigate the matter and then make a ruling if warranted. Students who miss an examination will be allowed to make up the test only in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. This documentation must be provided immediately before or after the date of the examination. The decision to administer a make-up examination, and the format of that examination, will be at the discretion of the course master.

GBS students are required to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better. Students who receive a grade of "C" or lower in a course must retake that course the following year. Students receiving three or more "Cs" will be dismissed from the GBS Graduate Program. Please refer to section **General requirements for first year students** for additional details. [GBS Theme Directors Update 2.4.2013]

Temporary Grade Notations

The temporary notation of "I" may be reported at the discretion of the instructor to indicate that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course but, due to unforeseen circumstances, is unable to finish all the course requirements. An "I" should never be given to enable a student to raise a deficient grade. This notation should not be used unless there is reasonable certainty that the requirements will be completed during the following semester. The student will have one semester to complete the remaining course requirements. If the student does not complete the remaining course requirements within one semester, the "I" will be changed to an "F." If the course is offered once per year, the theme may request an extension for the amount of time that the student has to complete the course requirements. Requests for extensions must be approved by the course instructor, graduate program director, and the Graduate School Dean. Requests for extensions should be made well in advance of the semester's end, in order to avoid the "I" being changed to an "F."

Please note: Students should not register for the course during the extended period since they are completing the requirements for a course from a prior term.

11/27/2012 Modified from Graduate Student Handbook for GBS use

ROTATIONS & SELECTING A DISSERTATION MENTOR

Rotation Schedule:

Lab Rotation 1: August 27-November 16, 2012
Poster Sessions: Nov 15 and 16

Lab Rotation 2: November 19, 2012-February 8, 2013
Poster sessions: Feb 7 and 8

Note: Although this rotation begins in Fall semester, you register for it in Spring semester

Lab Rotation 3: February 11-April 19, 2013
Poster sessions: Apr 18 and 20

Note: Although this rotation begins and ends in Spring semester, you register for it in Summer

Students who began their rotations in Summer Semester 2012 will register for Lab Rotation 2 in Fall and Lab Rotation 3 in Spring. They are expected to identify their permanent mentor lab close to the end of the third rotation

Poster Session Evaluations and Percentage of Overall Rotation Grade

GBS Poster Sessions will be held after each Lab Rotation. Students will be divided into two groups with one group presenting one day and the second group the next day. Students will create professional posters based on their rotation project. All students are expected to participate; exceptions require theme director approval.

Judges for the poster sessions will come from the theme faculty. Each theme will provide 2 judges for each day, dictating that each judge will evaluate 4-5 posters each. These faculty judges will complete a Rotation Poster Session Evaluation Form that will provide for comments and a grade on each poster. This rotation grade will reflect **90% on the Rotation Advisor grade, and 10% on the Rotation Poster evaluation.**

Poster Printing for Rotation Poster Sessions:

Production of posters for first-year GBS rotation poster sessions is currently offered, without charge, by the Biomedical Sciences Service Center that is physically located in Suites SHEL120/121. It should be noted that this is not a "GBS poster service" but rather a standard University-wide poster service center that serves a clientele of more than 700 users annually. In order to accommodate the quarterly production of approximately 70 posters in a very concentrated timeframe, while maintaining standard services for other users, we ask that the following guidelines be applied.

Guidelines:

- Poster submission deadlines will be established in consultation between the GBS Curriculum Committee and the poster service. It is intended to establish a deadline that is as close as possible to the relevant rotation poster session but will need to precede the poster session by at least 48 hrs, in order to allow time for printing, reviewing, and in some cases reprinting, of 70 posters. The deadlines will be distributed to rotation students and mentors at least two weeks in advance of each scheduled GBS poster session.

- Late poster submissions will be charged the standard rates (*see poster printing request invoice*), depending on other ongoing poster service center activity. Payment will be recovered from faculty or student funds, as determined by the involved rotation mentor and student.
- If late submissions are anticipated, the student should contact their theme manager and the poster service **as soon as possible** to determine options.
- Other poster printing service options include:
 - **UAB Printing Services**
<http://main.uab.edu/Sites/vpad/bsa/printing/> ----- Phone: 934-3790
 - **Makesigns.com**
http://www.makesigns.com/SciPosters_Home.aspx
 - **Fed-Ex Office Print & Ship (Kinko's)**
<http://www.fedex.com/Dropoff/SearchAction.do>

Formatting recommendations:

- Posters presented in a standard template format are thought to be easier to view; a template will be available from the theme program managers or online from the poster service if desired.
- Provide clearly indicated **introduction, Hypothesis, Results** and **Conclusions** sections.
- Include the names of the student, others lab personnel that contributed to the work, and the faculty mentor. Also include the students' GBS theme affiliation.

Randy Seay (rseay@uab.edu) is the contact person. Poster dimensions (created in PowerPoint) are either 36" high x 56" wide or 42" high x 56" wide. Additional sizes can be accommodated. Please contact the office for specifics. A service guide can be found at http://gbs-uab.infomedia.com/gbs_services.asp.

Rotation Waiver

1. All incoming GBS students are expected to participate in and complete 3 rotations during the first year before choosing a mentor for their thesis work. Exceptions require theme director approval.
2. The 3 rotation requirement can be satisfied with any 3 rotations, including a rotation scheduled during the summer before the first year (if initiated by June 1) or the three rotations scheduled during the first year.
3. In general, opting out of a rotation is discouraged. However, advanced students can be exempted for **no more than one rotation** if they have extensive prior laboratory experience that could be considered to be more extensive than a single GBS rotation. Prior experience that **may** be considered appropriate would include:
 - A Master's degree in a related scientific field (such as chemistry or biology).
 - Extensive undergraduate research that has (or will) result in authorship on a publication.
 - Undergraduate research that resulted in graduation with honors for research (with a thesis defense).
 - At least 2 undergraduate summer research experiences offered by competitive summer undergraduate research programs.
 - At least one year of undergraduate research that averaged at least 10 hours/week.
4. Petitions should be made following consultations between the student, the proposed mentor and the relevant theme director. If all parties agree to petition for the exemption, petition materials should be submitted by the theme director to the evaluation committee.
5. All petitions (including those with research experiences similar to the examples above) will be evaluated by a committee of GBS faculty before an exemption is allowed. Petitions should be submitted to Dr. Susan Rich, GBS Administrative Director. (*GBS SOC 1.31.11.*)

Rotation and Mentor Selection Process

General Information

Students begin their first rotation on August 29 and continue through November 9. Registration for the first rotation is in Fall semester; for the second rotation, Spring semester; and for the third rotation, Summer semester. This means that students will have completed their three rotations and moved into their permanent labs by the time they register and receive a grade for their third rotation.

Students will have a list of faculty affiliated with each theme from which they can determine lab rotation selection. The student should approach the faculty member via email to set up a time to meet face-to-face to discuss doing a rotation in that lab. When a student secures a rotation, she/he needs to notify the theme manager, as there is a form that needs to be sent to the rotation mentor and used for evaluation purposes.

Rotation Lab Selection:

Students should choose their rotation labs in consultation with the rotation advisor appointed by their chosen theme. To help students become familiar with faculty research interests, a faculty poster session will be held during the first week of classes. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to contact faculty to request a one-on-one meeting to learn more about faculty research interests (and their interest in taking rotation students). While rotations will typically occur with faculty in the student's chosen theme, students are free to rotate with faculty in other themes in other research areas.

Selection of dissertation advisor

The choice of a dissertation advisor/mentor is one of the most important decisions you will make as a graduate student. Thus, you should keep this matter in mind as you choose laboratory rotations and participate in lecture and seminar activities throughout your first year in the program. First year **students should select a dissertation advisor by June 1**. Students should make this choice in consultation with appropriate faculty so that the student and faculty member can come to a mutually agreeable decision and arrangement. In special cases, students unprepared to make this choice may be allowed to complete an additional laboratory rotation during the summer term. Clearly, a fourth laboratory rotation should be elected only after careful consideration, since could delay the student's completion of the doctoral program. Your program manager should be advised of the student's preference of dissertation advisor on the appropriate form.

Confirmation of theme affiliation

Students enter with a given theme affiliation but have the flexibility to rotate with any faculty with active GBS status and may change theme affiliation if their research training interests change. Alternatively, faculty outside of a given theme may elect to join additional themes if consistent with theme interests, wherein the student could retain their original theme affiliation. Additional 1st year theme-specific courses that may be required upon theme transfer can be completed in year 2 in fulfillment of advanced course requirements. Communication among the student, selected mentor, and the original and new theme directors will be necessary to facilitate transfer among themes. All students should confirm their theme affiliation at the time of dissertation advisor selection.

QUALIFYING EXAM: ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

General Qualifying Exam/Thesis Committee Guidelines

1. All GBS students are required to pass a qualifying exam prior to being considered for admission to candidacy.
2. Students must successfully complete all first year course requirements of their chosen theme before scheduling the qualifying exam.
3. After selecting a lab, a thesis committee should be formed to administer the qualifying exam and guide the student in selecting an appropriate program of advanced courses, seminars, and independent study. This program will be designed to meet the student's specific needs and satisfy GBS Program and Graduate School requirements.
4. The qualifying exam will entail both a written research proposal and an oral defense of this proposal.
5. Ph.D. students should form their thesis committee during the second year of study in the GBS program; MSTP students should form their committee during the third year of study in the GBS program. Ph.D. students should schedule their qualifying exam as early as possible in their 3rd year (and no later than the end of the 3rd year), while MSTP students should schedule their qualifying exam as early as possible in their 4th year (and no later than the end of the 4th year).
6. Determining Graduate Committee Composition:
 - a. The student and advisor should jointly agree on the graduate committee membership.
 - b. The advisor should submit those recommendations for committee membership to their GBS Theme Director for approval.
 - c. The Theme Director will then submit those recommendations to the Graduate School Dean for final approval. The Graduate School Dean, who is an *ex officio* member of all graduate student committees, is ultimately responsible for all graduate committee appointments.
7. The Qualifying Exam/Thesis Committee will include five faculty members (including the mentor). At least one or two committee members should have significant research interests outside the student's primary area of research. All committee members should bring some relevant insight and expertise to guide the student.
8. The student is required to meet with his/her thesis committee at least once per year during years 2-4 in the GBS program and every 6 months after that.
9. The progress of the student must be reviewed and documented on at least an annual basis, in accordance with Graduate School policy (see below).
10. Each theme has the option of adding additional requirements for the qualifying exam/thesis committee as needed.

Policy on Graduate Student Progress Reviews

1. The progress of each student enrolled in a graduate degree granting program toward meeting his/her degree requirements must be reviewed on at least an annual basis.
2. The review format and timing of reviews are the prerogative of the program. Progress Reviews may be performed by either the student's thesis or dissertation committee, by the Program Director, or by the program Executive Committee.
3. A written documentation (usually one page or less) of review group consensus regarding progress made and/or goals met since the previous review, as well as timelines for meeting specific goals during the next review period must be prepared and submitted to the program director who is responsible for maintaining a "progress record" for each student in the program.

4. In the event that progress is considered to be unsatisfactory, or a student is nearing the 5 year (Masters) or 7 year (Doctoral) limit for completing his/her degree requirements, the student's thesis or dissertation committee, or the program Executive Committee should implement a "Completion Plan."

Completion Plan Template

A "Completion Plan" should include specific goals and specific deadlines for meeting those goals, as well as prescribed consequences if the goals are not met within the proposed deadline time points. The plan should include a stipulation that the student will meet with his/her committee to review progress at each of the proposed deadline times. It is recommended that the time intervals between proposed committee meetings be no longer than three months. The plan should be incorporated into a written document, signed by the student, by his/her advisor, and by the program director. If it will be necessary to request an extension beyond the 5 or 7 year limit for completion of degree requirements, the plan must be submitted (along with the extension request) to the Graduate School Dean for review and approval.

Approved by UAB Graduate School ADCOM, March 2011

Specific Qualifying Exam Guidelines

1. Students should have one thesis committee meeting before the qualifying exam to approve the planned topic of their thesis research.
2. Completion of a grant-writing course before the qualifying exam will be encouraged but not required.
3. A committee member other than the mentor will coordinate and chair the qualifying exam. The chair should be selected by agreement of the student and mentor.
4. Each examination committee will decide the extent to which the mentor participates in the qualifying exam. If the mentor does participate in the oral examination, it is recommended that he/she only be allowed to ask questions and not otherwise contribute to the discussion.
5. The qualifying exam will be written on the topic of the student's proposed thesis research. The minimal format for this document will follow the basic features of the NIH NRSA (SF424) predoctoral fellowship application (1 page for Specific Aims; 6 pages for Research Strategy; and a Literature Cited section). However, themes may choose to require longer page limits (and other formats, such as the R01) at their discretion.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_Fellowship_VerB.pdf
6. written proposal should follow the new NIH R01 format (one page for Specific Aims; 12 pages for Research Strategy; and a Literature Cited section).
7. The mentor and other committee members are encouraged to provide only general guidance and advice to the student as he/she writes the proposal.
8. A draft of the proposal should be provided to each committee member for his/her review at least two weeks prior to the scheduled committee meeting (i.e., two weeks before the scheduled oral defense of the proposal).
9. It is the responsibility of the committee members to notify the student and mentor if the written proposal is unacceptable prior to the oral defense meeting. If so, the student will be allowed one attempt to revise the written proposal. If the revision is also unacceptable, the student will fail the qualifying exam.
10. Upon approval of the written proposal by each committee member, the student may proceed with the oral defense of the proposal before the committee.
11. During the oral phase of the qualifying exam the committee members will ask questions that extend beyond the scope of the proposal to gauge the student's general comprehension and critical thinking skills.

12. Following the oral defense, the committee may recommend corrections to the written proposal. The student should complete the corrections and re-submit the revised proposal to the committee within a month of the defense.
13. If the student fails the oral defense, he/she will be allowed one more attempt to pass the oral component of the qualifying exam within 2 months of the initial defense.
14. Students who fail either the written or oral components of the qualifying exam twice will be dismissed from the GBS program.
15. Upon successful completion of both the written proposal and oral defense, the student may apply for candidacy.
16. Each examination committee has the option of preparing written critiques of the proposal, as would an NIH study section. This could entail providing the student with brief written critiques in bullet-style format with criterion scores on the 1-9 scale currently used by NIH study sections. The committee will decide whether to prepare written critiques before the student begins writing the proposal.
17. It is understood that the aims of the qualifying exam proposal do not constitute a binding contract for the successful completion of the thesis project.
18. Each theme has the option of adding additional requirements for the qualifying exam as needed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

General Statement

The doctoral degree is granted in recognition of (1) scholarly proficiency and (2) distinctive achievement in a specific field of an academic discipline. The first component is demonstrated by successful completion of advanced coursework (of both a didactic and an unstructured nature) and by adequate performance on the comprehensive examination. Traditionally, the student demonstrates the second component by independently performing original research. In certain doctoral programs, a major project undertaking may be acceptable even though it may not be of a traditional research nature. However, in all programs, with the exception of DPT, a dissertation is required, presenting the results of the student's independent study.

The Graduate School also recognizes professional doctorates awarded in preparation for the autonomous practice of a profession. Professional doctorates are accredited programs of study designed to prepare students for the delivery of clinical services. Students in professional doctorate programs must demonstrate competence in clinical practice and scholarship but are not required to conduct and defend original independent research. In lieu of a dissertation, students in programs designated as professional doctorates are required to demonstrate that they are capable of evaluating existing research, applying it to their professional practice, and expanding the body of knowledge on which their professional practice is based. This requirement is met by the design and conduct of a research or scholarly project submitted in writing and presented formally before the members of the program.

Faculty Advisor

Immediately after a degree-seeking student enters the UAB Graduate School, a member of the faculty of the graduate program to which the student has been admitted should be assigned to serve as the student's advisor. This assignment may be a temporary arrangement. The student and the advisor should confer about the initial courses and any special work to be taken on the basis of the student's previous experience and the requirements of the graduate program.

Graduate Study Committee

As soon as possible, a graduate study committee should be formed to guide the student in a program of courses, seminars, and independent study designed to meet the student's needs and to satisfy program and Graduate School requirements. This committee should consist of at least five graduate faculty members, two of whom should be from outside the student's graduate specialization and each of whom should be able to bring some relevant insight and expertise to guide the student.

Recommendations for graduate study committee members are submitted by the advisor and the student to the program director, who subsequently submits these recommendations to the Graduate School dean. Graduate study committee appointments are made by the Graduate School dean, who is an ex officio member of all graduate study committees.

Changes to this committee must also be submitted online on the appropriate form at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/forms/>.

Transfer of Credit

Previously earned graduate credit that has not been applied toward another degree (either at UAB or elsewhere) is eligible for transfer into the student's current degree program. Ordinarily, no more than 12 semester hours of transfer credit can be applied to a degree program. Acceptance of more than 12 hours

will require approval by the program director, department chair, and Graduate School dean. All transfers must be initiated by the student and require the approval of the graduate program director and the Graduate School dean. Transfer of Credit forms are available online at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/forms/>. An application for transfer of credit will not be considered until the student has completed at least 9 semester hours of graduate credit in the current UAB program and is in good academic standing. Once transfer credit has been accepted, it will be included in the calculation of the GPA in the student's current UAB program.

Graduate credit earned with a grade of B or above by a graduate student in another accredited graduate school may be considered for transfer. In programs offered jointly by UAB and other universities, all graduate credits earned in the program at a cooperating university are eligible for transfer to UAB. If a student earns credit in one UAB graduate program and is later admitted to another program, unused credits from the previous program are eligible for consideration for transfer into the current program.

Minimum Course Credit Requirements

The Graduate School has minimum course credit requirements for students in doctoral programs. Program requirements for course work may exceed the Graduate School minimums. Graduate School minimum requirements are as follows:

1. If entering with a baccalaureate degree:

- a. Completion of 48 credit hours of course work prior to candidacy
- b. Up to 16 credits of the 48 can be as non-dissertation research credits
- c. Up to 10 credits can be as lab rotation, seminar, or directed study credits
- d. Doctoral students must satisfy one of the following: Must complete at least two semesters in candidacy and accumulate at least 24 semester credit hours in 799 dissertation research **OR** must complete at least two semesters as a student in candidacy and have accumulated at least 12 semester credit hours in other appropriate research-based coursework, which has been approved by the graduate student's program. Courses which have been previously applied toward meeting the requirements of another degree are not eligible to satisfy the research credit requirement. The student's graduate department/program should provide a course planning curriculum worksheet detailing the courses taken which are intended to be used toward meeting degree requirements along with the application for degree.

2. If entering with a previous Masters degree appropriate to the doctoral degree field (Also applies to previously earned M.S., D.V.M., D.M.D., D.D.S., etc.):

- a. Completion of 27 credit hours of course work prior to candidacy
- b. Up to 6 credits of the 27 can be as non-dissertation research credits
- c. Up to 6 credits can be as lab rotation, seminar, or directed study credits
- d. Must complete at least two semesters in candidacy and accumulate at least 24 semester credit hours in 799 dissertation research. **OR** must complete at least two semesters as a student in candidacy and have accumulated at least 12 semester credit hours in other appropriate research-based coursework, which has been approved by the graduate student's program. Courses which have been previously applied toward meeting the requirements of another degree are not eligible to satisfy the research credit requirement. The student's graduate department/program should provide a course planning curriculum worksheet detailing the courses taken which are intended to be used toward meeting degree requirements along with the application for degree.

Up to 12 credits of course work that have not been applied toward meeting the requirements for an earned degree taken at UAB or other institutions may be used to satisfy these course credit requirements upon approval of the graduate program director and the Graduate School Dean.

The Graduate School requires only 30 semester credit hours for a master's degree. Any credit hours earned at UAB beyond 30 semester credit hours may be applied toward a doctoral degree at UAB.

Residence Requirement

The usual minimal period in which the doctoral degree can be earned is three academic years of full-time study, or longer if the student has periods of part-time enrollment. The nature of doctoral study requires the closest contact between the student and the faculty of the graduate program, and the individual investigation or other special work leading to the dissertation must be done directly under the guidance and supervision of a full member of the UAB graduate faculty. Therefore, doctoral students should be in residence (enrolled) for three full semesters each year including summers during a three year period or collectively a minimum of nine semesters if the student has to take a leave of absence or stop out during the course of their doctoral education.

Foreign Language or Other Special Tools of Research

In consultation with the faculty, the director of each graduate program will specify any additional requirements, such as a reading knowledge of a foreign language or a working knowledge of statistics, that are considered essential to mastery of the academic discipline. Such requirements become conditions for the completion of the degree.

Comprehensive Examination

The scholarly proficiency of a doctoral student in the chosen field of study must be evaluated by comprehensive examination. The conduct of these examinations is the responsibility of the graduate program in which the student is enrolled and may consist of either individual examinations in several appropriate areas or a single combined examination. When both written and oral examinations are given, the written should precede the oral so that there is an opportunity for the student to clarify any misunderstanding of the written questions.

Students must be registered for at least 3 semester hours of graduate work during the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken.

Admission to Candidacy

When the student has passed the comprehensive examination, satisfied any program requirements for foreign language proficiency or special tools of research, and presented to the graduate study committee an acceptable proposal for dissertation research or special study, the committee will recommend to the Graduate School dean that the student be admitted to candidacy. A student must be in good academic standing to be admitted to candidacy. Admission to candidacy must take place at least two semesters before the expected completion of the doctoral program. Students must be admitted to candidacy before they can register for dissertation research hours (i.e., 799).

Admission to candidacy is an important step forward in the student's pursuit of the doctorate. By approving admission to candidacy, the graduate committee indicates its confidence that the student is capable of completing the proposed research project and the doctoral program.

IRB and IACUC Approval

If the research involves human or animal subjects, approval from IRB or IACUC must be documented before admission to candidacy can be approved and must be kept current until the research is completed (please refer to Tip Sheet for Students Involved in Research Involving Human or Animal Subjects located at the end of the Handbook). The student's name must appear on the IRB approval form. The IACUC form must display the appropriate protocol number.

Application for Degree

Each candidate for a doctoral degree must signify the intention to complete the requirements by a particular graduation date by submitting a completed Application for Degree Form. Because this form is used to check requirements, order the diploma, and enter the student on the commencement program, it must be received in the Graduate School Records Office no later than 3 weeks into the expected semester of graduation. See deadline dates located on the Graduate School website. Students must be registered for at least 3 semester hours in the semester they plan to graduate. Forms are available online at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/forms/>.

Dissertation

The results of the candidate's individual inquiry must be presented in a written dissertation comprising a genuine contribution to knowledge in the particular academic field. The document should also demonstrate the candidate's acquaintance with the literature of the field and the proper selection and execution of research methodology.

Signatures of committee members and program directors on approval forms indicate their assurance that they have examined the document and have found that it is of professional quality from all standpoints, including writing quality, technical correctness, and professional competency, and that the document conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation. The Graduate School is responsible for ensuring that the final version of the dissertation meets the physical standards required of a permanent, published document and for adherence to the requirements stated in the UAB Format Manual, available online at www.uab.edu/graduate/theses_dissertation/FormatManual.pdf.

No later than 2 weeks (10 business days) following the public defense, the completed, committee-approved dissertation, as a single PDF, must be submitted to the for final review. There is a \$65 charge, paid online at the time of submission. Also submitted online are the UAB Publication Agreement and the Survey of Earned Doctorates. One copy of the signed approval form is submitted to the Graduate School office. Additional information concerning completing graduation requirements and the dissertation submission and publication process is available online at <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/students/current/theses/>.

Final Examination

The final examination should take the form of a presentation and defense of the dissertation, followed by an examination of the candidate's comprehensive knowledge of the field. The time, date, and location of this examination is reported to the Graduate School via the online Request for Thesis or Dissertation Approval forms (submitted at least 10 days before the public defense) and allows for the attendance of the Graduate School dean. The meeting must be open to all interested parties, publicized on the UAB campus, and must take place at least 30 days before the expected date of graduation. Candidates must be registered for at least 3 semester hours of graduate work during the semester in which the final examination is taken.

If in the opinion of one or two of the five members of the dissertation committee, the student has failed the dissertation defense, there is no consensus to pass. The chair of the committee shall advise the student that the dissertation fails to meet the requirements of the program. The chair shall notify the student in writing about the reason(s) for failure. If the student resubmits or submits a new dissertation for consideration by his/her graduate program at least two members of the new examining committee shall be drawn from the original committee. If the modified or new dissertation fails to meet the requirements of the program, the student shall be dismissed from the graduate program.

In the event that only one of the five committee members dissent, that individual must submit a letter in which he/she outlines the reasons for their dissent to the student's advisor. The advisor and student may then prepare a rebuttal statement that is submitted, along with the letter of dissent, to the advisory or

executive committee of the program for review. The advisory committee can then decide to accept or reject the rebuttal statement. If the rebuttal is accepted, the student is passed on his/her dissertation defense. If the rebuttal is rejected, the advisory committee can recommend to the student or advisor potential steps necessary to remediate the dissertation and potentially also the work therein, or the committee can recommend that the student be dismissed from the program.

Recommendation for Degree

The candidate will be recommended for the doctoral degree to the Graduate School dean by the graduate study committee and the graduate program director. This recommendation must be received no later than 20 days before the end of the semester in which the candidate is expected to complete all degree requirements. Candidates must be in good academic standing to graduate, with no temporary grades for courses required for the degree on their transcripts.

Award of Degree

Upon approval by the Graduate School dean and payment of any outstanding financial obligations to the university, the student will be awarded the degree. Doctoral students are generally expected to complete all degree requirements within 7 years of matriculation.

Summary of Steps Toward the Doctoral Degree

- Admission to doctoral degree program
- Selection of faculty advisor
- Maintenance of good standing
- Appointment of graduate study committee
- Passing of comprehensive examination
- IRB and/or IACUC approvals obtained
- Admission to candidacy—no later than two semesters before expected graduation
- Application for degree—no later than 3 weeks into the expected semester of graduation
- Production of preliminary version of dissertation
- Final examination—no later than 30 days before expected graduation
- A PDF of the defended committee-approved dissertation to UAB/ProQuest submission web site --no later than 2 weeks (10 business days) following the public defense
- Conferring of degree

<http://www.uab.edu/graduate/area-3/current-students/71-requirements-for-the-doctoral-degree>

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GRADUATE ASSISTANT OR TRAINEE

A fundamental responsibility of the graduate assistant is to work closely with the faculty supervisor in carrying out research or teaching activities, while at the same time making good progress toward the completion of the degree program. If the student's assistantship responsibilities and academic program are properly coordinated, these responsibilities will be compatible. The assistant should articulate his or her goals early in the term of appointment and work with the supervisor to achieve them. The graduate assistant is obligated at all times to maintain high ethical standards in academic and nonacademic activities, and to report violations of these to the faculty supervisor. The graduate assistant should keep well informed of departmental, school, and institutional regulations, and follow them consistently. If problems arise in the assistantship assignments, the graduate assistant should seek help first from the faculty supervisor. If problems cannot be resolved, the student should consult the Program Director.

In general, graduate assistants are expected to be available in the periods between academic terms. Graduate assistants are entitled to the following short-term leaves:

- A maximum of 15 calendar days (one-half month) paid leave of absence (vacation) per calendar year,
- 3 calendar days paid sick leave of absence per calendar year, and
- Parental leave of absence (with pay) of 30 consecutive days per calendar year upon the birth or adoption of a child. Either or both parents are eligible for parental leave.

These leaves (vacation, sick, parental) do not accrue. All leaves must be requested and require approval by the mentor and graduate program director. With the agreement of the mentor and graduate program director, extended, unpaid, nonemergency absences from campus for periods up to a month may be approved. Extended absences (without pay) for non-academic purposes should be limited. Program policies regarding leaves of absence must apply equitably to all full time students in good standing in the program. Students should consult the Graduate School Policies and Procedures concerning leaves of academic absence. In emergencies, graduate assistants should inform their mentors or program directors as soon as possible about the need for a leave of academic absence. NOTE: Graduate students (Trainees and Assistants) are not eligible for FMLA.

GRADUATE SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE STUDENT COMPENSATION

All students accepted into GBS programs receive an annual stipend and fully paid tuition and fees. Single coverage health insurance is also provided at no cost to the student through VIVA Health UAB. The stipend level is reviewed periodically and adjusted, upon recommendation of the GBS Steering and Oversight Committee, with review by the Graduate School.

A salary cap for UAB Graduate Assistants, Graduate Student Assistants and Graduate Student Trainees has been set in consultation with the Academic Programs Council and has been approved by the Provost's office. The maximum is indexed to equal 90 percent of the current NSF individual fellowship stipend. Conditions for exceptions may exist and relevant information can be found at Administering Fellowships and Assistantships – <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/directors/administering-fellowships-andassistantships>. Students who are supported by extramural fellowships or training grants that provide stipends and additional benefits which exceed the recommended maximum are entitled to receive the full support provided by the extramural award.

Note: Assumption of additional assignments other than Graduate Assistant (06) or Graduate Student Trainee(06) requires prior approval in writing by the Graduate School Dean. The Request for Additional Assignment form may be found on the Graduate School website on the [Online Forms](#) page. If a student is already being compensated at the maximum allowed (see above), an additional assignment outside their primary appointment can only be made under special circumstances.

GRADUATE SCHOOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Graduate School has established an incentive plan designed to encourage more students to apply for individual fellowships. Since May of 2007 when this incentive plan was announced, 205 Ph.D. students have submitted new individual fellowship applications. To date, 54 fellowships have been funded, representing a 264% increase in the number of individual fellowships that were held by predoctoral students when the program was initiated.

Dean Bryan Noe stated, "An investment of \$51,250 of Graduate School funds has generated in excess of \$1,500,000 per year in stipend support for UAB students who were awarded individual fellowships." This is a cost-benefit ratio which is quite favorable.

If you are a graduate student interested in the Incentive Plan, please read the eligibility requirements located below.

Rationale and Goal: Many UAB graduate students would be competitive for individual fellowships, but not all who are eligible actually apply for a fellowship. Accordingly, the Graduate School has established an incentive plan designed to encourage more students to apply for individual fellowships. By implementing this incentive plan it is hoped that a significant number of additional individual fellowships will be awarded to UAB predoctoral trainees.

Plan Description:

1. The Graduate School will provide a monetary incentive for students to APPLY FOR individual fellowships funded by extramural agencies or foundations. Graduate students who apply for an individual fellowship (e.g. NSF Individual, NIH NRSA, or other) will be awarded \$250 from the Graduate School through the UAB Financial Aid office as a reward for submitting the application. To qualify for this award, the application must be reviewed prior to submission by the student's program director or mentor, who must provide a written verification to the Graduate School that the application is considered to be competitive. After submission of the grant application, the student will provide a PDF of the application to the Graduate School and the incentive reward will be authorized when the student provides evidence that the application has been received by the granting agency. **The \$250 award is given for first submissions only.**
2. If a student's application is funded, the student will receive an additional financial reward.
 - a. For an NIH NRSA or other grant that provides less than the base stipend currently being offered to all students in that student's program, the student will receive supplementation of the fellowship stipend to an amount equal to the base stipend plus \$1,000 per year for the term that the grant is funded. The supplemental funding will be provided by the Graduate School. If the stipend amount from the external award is equal to or greater than the equivalent of \$1,000 more than the current base stipend in the student's program, the student is entitled to receive the full amount of the stipend. The form used to apply for provision of the supplement from Graduate School resources can be downloaded from the Graduate School web site at: <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/funding/gsincentive.pdf>
 - b. If a student receives an NSF predoctoral fellowship, he/she will receive no supplement to his/her stipend during the three year term of the NSF fellowship. This stipulation is necessary because the NSF stipend of \$30,000 exceeds the current maximum stipend recommended by the Graduate School. After the NSF grant terminates, the student's mentor or department will

be responsible for providing the current base stipend in that student's program and the Graduate School will provide the \$1,000 supplement until the student completes his/her degree requirements.

Eligibility: This plan is available to students in any graduate program discipline in which extramural individual fellowship funding is available. To be eligible for both the reward for submitting the application and the supplement to a student's stipend, the award must provide more than half the current base stipend in the student's program. Applications for and receipt of travel and other small grants will not be eligible for an incentive award under this program. Additional details for students and faculty concerning the Graduate School-sponsored Fellowship Incentive Plan follow below.

To receive the application incentive (\$250) the following materials are required:

1. A letter from the student's advisor verifying that the advisor reviewed the application and believes that it is competitive.
2. Documentation that the amount of the fellowship provides greater than half of the student's current base stipend.
3. An electronic or hard copy PDF of the application.
4. Verification of receipt of the application by the funding agency.
5. Incentives apply to applications submitted January 2, 2007 or later.

These materials may be submitted to:

- Thomas Harris, Executive Assistant to the Dean, 511 HUC, 996-4062, tharris@uab.edu (Graduate Dean's Office) or to
- Cyndi Ballinger, Graduate School Business Officer, 511 HUC, 975-7188, cknight@uab.edu (Graduate Dean's Office)

If the application is successfully funded, the student should provide a copy of the award notice and the Request for Individual Fellowship Supplement Funding Form to one of the individuals above (Thomas Harris or Cyndi Ballinger in the Graduate School Dean's Office) in order to receive the additional financial reward as described in the Plan Description.

We strongly encourage our graduate students and faculty to participate in this incentive program.

From - <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/incentive-program-for-individual-fellowship-applications>

ACADEMIC ETHICS AND CONDUCT

As a graduate student at UAB, you have joined a distinguished academic community that is guided by a conviction in the worth of knowledge and its pursuit. By virtue of your membership in this community, you accrue many benefits—among them, access to the ideas and materials of others. Graduate students not only learn from others but also engage in the pursuit of new knowledge and, in some instances, teach or provide service to others. Being a member of an academic community and functioning in multiple roles in the community carries with it certain responsibilities. For this reason, we provide guidance here in the forms of both general standards of conduct and university policies.

As members of an academic community, students, faculty, and administrators share a responsibility to seek truths and communicate them to others. As we pursue knowledge and encourage learning, we acknowledge the need for a free exchange of ideas and recognize the importance of listening to and maintaining respect for the views of others. We must always aspire to learn, apply, and communicate to others the best scholarly standards of the disciplines in which we are involved. High scholarly standards demand high ethical standards. We must commit to learning and communicating the best ethical standards and their application to our disciplines. In interactions with others, we must demonstrate respect for them as individuals, give credit for significant academic or scholarly assistance, and respect the confidential nature of some exchanges. We must adhere to the highest standards of academic conduct, avoiding those acts of misconduct and dishonesty that undermine the purposes of the academic community.

All UAB students are expected to be familiar with the UAB Academic Honor Code as well as any honor codes that are specific to their schools or disciplines. The code represents a commitment to integrity in the academic community and a respect for an individual's educational endeavors:

I have read and, by choosing to become a member of the UAB academic community, accept the UAB Honor Code. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as expulsion from the university. I promise and confirm that I will not, at any time and under any circumstances, involve myself with abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Academic Integrity — Honor Code

The University of Alabama at Birmingham expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Students, faculty, and administration of the institution must be involved to ensure this quality of academic conduct. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Such behavior is a serious violation of the trust that must exist among faculty and students for a university to nurture intellectual growth and development. Academic misconduct can generally be defined as all acts of dishonesty in an academic or related matter. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of behavior:

ABETTING: helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Allowing others to copy your quiz answers, or use your work as their own are examples of abetting.

CHEATING: use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, study aids, the answers of others, or computer-related information.

PLAGIARISM: claiming as your own the ideas, words, data, computer programs, creative compositions, artwork, etc., done by someone else. Examples include improper citation of referenced works, use of commercially available scholarly papers, failure to cite sources, and copying others' ideas.

FABRICATION: presenting as genuine falsified data, citations, or quotations.

MISREPRESENTATION: falsification, alteration or misstatement of the contents of documents, academic work, or other materials related to academic matters, including representing work substantially done for one class as work done for another without receiving prior approval from the instructor.

Misrepresentation also includes misrepresenting schedules, prerequisites, transcripts, or other academic records.

A student who commits an act of academic misconduct within the context of meeting course requirements will be given the grade of F in the course or on the assignment at the discretion of the department or program in which the misconduct occurred. Academic misconduct can occur in other contexts as well, such as when taking comprehensive examinations, performing research, preparing manuscripts or generally during the performance of other activities related to the process of satisfying degree requirements. Under Graduate School policy the program in which the student is enrolled may choose to expel the student from the university on the first offense. Students should consult the policies of their graduate program to determine whether expulsion can occur with a first offense. If, as determined by the records of the Graduate School or the department or program, the act of academic misconduct is a second offense, the student will be expelled from the university. The transcript of a student expelled for committing academic misconduct will bear the statement "Expelled for Academic Misconduct." Withdrawal from a course while a possible violation of the Academic Honor Code is under review will not preclude the assignment of a course grade that appropriately reflects the student's performance prior to withdrawal if the violation is substantiated.

Procedure for Suspected Violation

When a faculty member or another student sees cause to charge a student with academic misconduct, within 7 days of noting the incident that individual will communicate the charge to the department chair or program director of the department or program in which the accused student is enrolled. The department chair or program director to whom the charge is presented will notify the student of the charge and provide the student with an opportunity to respond. If the student can respond in a way that, in the opinion of the program director and the department chair, either dispels the charge or provides the opportunity to resolve the issue informally, an informal resolution can be prescribed.

If the student cannot refute the charge effectively, the department chair or program director will expeditiously notify the student of the administrative action to be taken. The notice shall also inform the student of the right to appeal and the steps involved in that process. Copies of any such communication will be provided to the academic dean of the school in which the student is enrolled.

If the school or department in which the student is enrolled has its own honor code, then the procedures of that honor code must be followed, including any prescribed appeals process. For dual degree students whose academic misconduct occurs in one of their two schools, the honor code of the school in which the infraction occurred should prevail.

However, if no local honor code exists, the following procedure must be followed.

Right to Appeal and Formation of an Honor Council

If a student is the subject of an administrative action as the result of an academic misconduct violation and wishes to contest that administrative action, he / she may appeal in writing to the dean of the school in which the student is enrolled. The dean will then convene an Honor Council consisting of five students and three faculty members from various departments within the school. All of the students chosen to serve must be in good academic standing. The Honor Council shall elect a chairperson from among the eight members. The Chair may be either a student or faculty member. The duties of the Chair include convening the Honor Council, presiding over hearings and communicating with the administration of their school on behalf of the Honor Council. In all matters, the members of the Honor Council are instructed to treat the information put forward to them in the strictest of confidence. Breaches of confidentiality are themselves violations of the Student Honor Code and will be treated as such.

Initial Procedures

After being informed of the charges and the failure to reach an informal resolution, the Academic Dean may also attempt to informally resolve the impasse between the student and the faculty member(s). In the event this attempt is unsuccessful, the Academic Dean shall refer the allegation(s) to the Honor Council. The Academic Dean will provide the Honor Council with a statement of the allegation(s) against the accused student, a description of the evidence and supporting documents (if available).

The Honor Council shall convene to review the charge and all evidence supporting it. After review, the Council may either dismiss the allegation(s) on the grounds that insufficient substantiating evidence exists, or support the charges, also based on the evidence. The Honor Council shall provide notice of the specific charge or of the dismissal of the alleged violation to the accused student by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery, and to the Academic Dean. If substantiated, the statement of the charge shall include a brief summary of the alleged violation and the evidence presented in support of the charge, in enough detail as to allow the accused the opportunity to rebut the charge, and shall provide notification to the accused student of his/her right to a hearing. The accused student must respond to the charge within five days, unless excused by the Honor Council. In his/her written response to the Honor Council, the accused student must admit or deny the charge and must formally request or waive his/her right to a hearing before the Honor Council.

Once notice of the specific charge has been provided to the accused student and to the Academic Dean, the Honor Council shall decide on a time for the hearing and any preliminary deadline(s) for the submission of supporting documents and the names of proposed witnesses. Granting a request from the accused, or from the School, to reschedule the hearing is within the discretion of the Honor Council, but shall not be unreasonably denied. The Honor Council shall provide written notice to the accused student of the time and place for the hearing, and if witnesses are to be called in his/her defense, ask the student to provide their names along with a statement describing the testimony of each witness. The Honor Council shall review any documentary evidence provided by the student in advance of the hearing.

The Hearing

The process shall generally include the following: (1) call to order by the Chair; (2) introduction of those present; (3) statement of the Charge and possible penalties if the charge is proven; (4) statement of the evidence and testimony in support of the charge, and questioning of witnesses; (5) statement of evidence and testimony in opposition to the charge (rebuttal), and questioning of witnesses; (6) closing statement. All questioning of witnesses shall be by the Honor Council unless the Honor Council shall decide otherwise.

A hearing before the Honor Council shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence or judicial rules of procedure. The Honor Council may hear any testimony or receive any supporting evidence that it deems to be pertinent to the charge. Both the accused and a representative of the School may be present throughout the hearing. The accused student shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard, to question witnesses indirectly through the Honor Council, to rebut adverse evidence, and to make a brief closing statement. Members of the Honor Council may ask any questions at any time during the hearing and may elect to disallow or to curtail testimony that the Honor Council determines to be unnecessarily redundant or not relevant to the issue(s) being heard. Throughout the hearing, all persons present shall conduct themselves in an orderly manner.

The accused may be accompanied at the hearing by an advisor of his/her choosing, however, the advisor may not participate in the hearing. The Honor Council shall be responsible for the conduct of the hearing at all times and shall keep a record of the proceedings in a format it chooses. Hearings before the Honor Council are confidential proceedings and only those persons determined by the Honor Council to have a need to be present shall be included. Except for the accused (and an advisor if invited by the accused) and the representative of the School, all other witnesses shall be excluded from the hearing room, except when testifying. No more than one witness shall be called to testify at a time. The School or the Honor Council may elect to invite UAB Security to be present at an Honor Council hearing. As soon as practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Honor Council shall meet in private session to consider all of the evidence presented, and shall decide on one of two outcomes. The decision of the Honor Council shall be that the charge is either (1) proven by a preponderance of the evidence or (2) not proven by a preponderance of the evidence. A vote of six of the eight members shall be required for the charge against the accused to be proven. Following the vote, the Honor Council shall record the vote and shall provide a brief narrative statement explaining the rationale for their finding(s). The written decision and rationale of the Honor Council shall be transmitted to the Academic Dean, by internal communication, upon the conclusion of the Honor Council's deliberations. The Honor Council shall notify the accused of the outcome by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery. A decision of the Honor Council in favor of the accused student shall conclude the case.

Penalties for Violation of the Honor Code

Generally, a first violation of the Honor Code shall result in the assignment of a failing grade in the assignment or in the course in which the violation occurred, at the discretion of the instructor. A notation on the student's permanent academic record may also be made to indicate that a reduced or failing grade was assigned because of an Academic Misconduct violation (e.g., "F, Academic Misconduct violation, June 15, 2006"), on the judgment of the Honor Council. A second violation of the Honor Code shall result in expulsion from the University. No student may graduate until pending allegations of an Academic misconduct violation have been resolved. No student expelled from the Graduate School because of an academic misconduct violation shall be eligible for readmission.

If at the end of the appeals process performed at the school level, the accused student wishes to appeal to the Graduate School Appeals Board, he/she must follow the procedure outlined in this Handbook. Upon receipt of the appeal from the student, the Graduate Dean will request from the Academic Dean of the school in which the student is enrolled all appropriate documentation accumulated to that point. The Graduate Dean will then be responsible for maintaining records of all additional proceedings.

Taken from the UAB Graduate School Handbook

13-August-2012: A copy of the UAB Academic Conduct Policy is found in the Graduate Student Guidance and Policies section of this GBS Handbook. This policy is also published in the UAB Graduate School Handbook.

NON-ACADEMIC CONDUCT

The university is a community of scholars and learners; therefore, all participants are expected to maintain conduct that (1) facilitates the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives, (2) exhibits a regard for the rights of other members of the academic community, and (3) provides safety to property and persons. Through appropriate "due process" procedures, disciplinary action will be taken in response to conduct that violates these principles. A more detailed description of non-academic misconduct can be found in the student handbook Direction. It is the student's responsibility to be fully aware of the policies and procedures described in Direction. The Vice President for Student Affairs has the responsibility for coordinating policies and procedures regarding students' non-academic misconduct.

Ethical Standards in Research and Other Scholarly Activities

PERSONNEL MISCONDUCT MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2005

TO: Deans, Chairs, and Directors

FROM: Eli I. Capilouto, DMD, MPH, ScD Provost

Richard B. Marchase, PhD , Vice President for Research

We are taking this opportunity to ensure that your faculty and staff are aware of the proper procedures for reporting concerns about practices or personnel conduct at UAB.

- For most cases, reports should follow the "chain of command". The immediate supervisor should be first notified unless the problem involves that individual, in which case the next highest supervisor should be notified. Any situation that endangers personnel safety should be reported directly to UAB Police, Occupational Health and Safety (934-2487), Facilities, or others as appropriate with subsequent notification of a supervisor.
- Scientific misconduct, defined as "fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices which seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research" should be reported to the Vice President for Research, who serves as the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer. UAB's *Policy Concerning the Maintenance of High Ethical Standards in Research and Other Scholarly Activities* can be found at <http://www.iss.uab.edu/Pol/HiEthicsMtab.pdf> and provides information about the ethical standards expected of UAB faculty and staff.
- Concerns about research or research administration can also be reported directly to the UAB Office of Research Compliance <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=55742> or through the hotline maintained by this office. Anonymous reports are accepted.
- Problems related to personnel issues should be reported through the supervisory chain of command unless it is more appropriate to go directly to Human Resource Management Relations 934 -4701.

Additional information can be found in the handbooks: ----

- You and UAB: Handbook for Administrative Professional and Support Personnel (http://www.hrm.uab.edu/you_uabhandbook/You%20and%20UAB%202005-05-09sm.pdf)
- Faculty Handbook and Policies (<http://www.uab.edu/images/provost/APUP/Handbook.pdf>).

UAB POLICY CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS IN RESEARCH AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

This policy has been adapted from a statement on “The Maintenance of High Ethical Standards in the Conduct of Research” published by the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges and has been revised to be in compliance with the Public Health Service final rule entitled “Responsibilities of Awardee and Applicant Institutions for Dealing With and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science.” It incorporates recommendations of the UAB Faculty Policies and Procedures Committee and the UAB Faculty Senate.

A. Introduction

The principles that govern scientific research and scholarship have long been established and have been applied by faculties and administrators for the discovery of new knowledge needed by mankind. The maintenance of high ethical standards in research based on these principles is a central and critical responsibility of faculties and administrators of academic institutions. Validity and accuracy in the collecting and reporting of data are intrinsically essential to the scientific process; dishonesty in these endeavors runs counter to the very nature of research, that is, the pursuit of truth. The responsibility of the academic community to the public is acknowledged. The maintenance of public trust in this pursuit is vital. In short, it is in the best interest of the public and of academic institutions to prevent misconduct in research and to deal effectively and responsibly with instances in which misconduct is suspected.

B. Policy Statement

1. UAB shall accept as faculty members only those individuals whose career activities clearly demonstrate the highest ethical standards. To this end, the credentials of all potential faculty are to be thoroughly examined by the appropriate department/unit heads or their respective in order to verify the claimed accomplishments of the candidate. The appropriate department/unit heads or their representatives shall seek further confirmation of the candidate’s accomplishments during the normal procedures of personal interview and letters from references. Proof of faculty credentials shall be maintained by the appropriate dean or department head.
2. Faculty members who are in supervisory positions with regard to colleagues, fellows, technicians, and students are expected to work closely with those individuals to provide them with appropriate guidance and counsel to the end that those individuals continue to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.
3. The faculty is encouraged to increase student and staff awareness of the importance of maintaining high ethical standards in research and to discuss issues related to research ethics in formal courses, in seminars, and by other informal means.
4. Research results should be supported by verifiable evidence. Faculty and staff should maintain sufficient written records or other documentation of their studies. It is the responsibility of department/unit heads, division directors, and experienced investigators to develop among junior colleagues and students the necessary respect for careful recording and preservation of primary data.
5. The faculty is encouraged to engage in free discussion of results, to share data and techniques, and to avoid secrecy in the conduct of original investigations. It should be remembered that independent confirmation of results is important in direct proportion to the potential significance of the results in question and may be crucial to the establishment of new concepts.

6. Faculty members are responsible for the quality of all reports based on their own efforts or on the collaborative work of students, technicians, or colleagues, especially those which bear the faculty member's name. The term "reports" as used here includes, but is not limited to, manuscripts submitted for publication and abstracts submitted for presentation at meetings. The same standards of scientific integrity apply to abstracts as to full-length publications. Abstracts or other reports of preliminary findings should indicate clearly that the findings are preliminary. No faculty member shall allow his or her name to be used on any report containing results for which that faculty member cannot assume full professional and ethical responsibility

7. Any UAB employee (including, but not limited to, regular and adjunct faculty, fellows, technicians, and student employees) or any UAB student who has reason to suspect any other employee or student of misconduct with regard to the conducting or reporting of research has the responsibility of following up these suspicions in accordance with the procedures outlined below. For purposes of this policy, "misconduct" means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices, which seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data. Intentionally withholding information relevant to the investigation of an alleged case of misconduct, intentionally pressuring others to do so, or bringing malicious charges against another individual shall itself be considered misconduct. Also, any act of interference, retaliation, or coercion by an UAB employee against a student or employee for using this policy is prohibited and is itself a violation of this policy.

C. Procedures To Be Followed

The "Scientific Misconduct Allegation Review Checklist" is to be used in conjunction with the procedures in this section and is available at www.iss.uab.edu.

1. It is the responsibility of student employees, trainees, fellows, faculty members, staff members, or other employees who become aware of misconduct in research and other scholarly activities to report such misconduct to one of the following: (a) their department/unit head, (b) the dean of the school in which their department/unit is located, or (c) the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer. In the case of graduate students or of trainees at any level, such evidence also may be reported to the dean of the Graduate School.
2. The individual receiving such evidence of misconduct must immediately report such evidence and the allegation of misconduct to the UAB Scientific Integrity Office, the department/unit head and the dean of the unit in which the alleged misconduct occurred, and the provost. If the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer determines that the allegation warrants initiation of the inquiry process, the inquiry shall be initiated immediately, and the office of counsel shall be informed.
3. Allegations of this nature are very serious matters, and all parties involved should take measures to assure that the oppositions and reputations of all individuals named in such allegations and all individuals who in good faith report apparent misconduct are protected. Details of the charge, the name of the accused, the identity of the individual brings suspected fraud, and all other information about the case shall be kept confidential as far as possible, capable with investigating the case. Revealing confidential information to those not involved in the investigation shall itself be considered misconduct.
4. Because UAB is interested in protecting the health and safety of research subjects, students, staff, and faculty and because UAB is responsible for protecting sponsored research funds and for ensuring that those funds are spent of the purposed for which they are give, if the situation warrants it, interim

administrative action may be used prior to conclusion of either the inquiry or the investigation to provide for the protection of individuals and funds in accordance with existing UAB policy. Such action includes, but is not limited to, administrative suspension; reassignment of student(s); involvement of the Institutional Review Board, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and the Office of Internal Audit-UAB; or notification of external sponsors when required by federal regulations.

D. Initial Inquiry

For purposes of this policy, “inquiry” means information gathering and initial fact finding to determine whether an allegation or apparent instance of scientific misconduct warrants an investigation.

1. The department/unit head or dean shall investigate immediately the charges through an inquiry process, including an interview with the suspected individual. The person conducting the inquiry shall ensure that individuals with the necessary and appropriate expertise are consulted concerning technical aspects of the activities in question. At least one of those individuals must be from outside the suspected individual’s department. The record of the inquiry shall document the review of relevant evidence.

The department/unit head or dean conducting the inquiry shall keep the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer informed and may request assistance from the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer. The UAB Scientific Integrity Officer shall keep the Office of Counsel informed during the inquiry process, and the Office of Counsel shall provide advice concerning procedural matters. In order to ensure that a real or apparent conflict of interest does not exist, the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer shall review the selection of persons to be involved in the inquiry. If it is determined that a conflict of interest exists, the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer is responsible for designating who will be involved in the inquiry.

If UAB plans to terminate an inquiry for any reason prior to completion of the normal progression of such an inquiry, the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer shall notify the federal Office of Research Integrity and shall include in that notification a description of the reasons for termination of the inquiry.

UAB will make every effort to complete the inquiry within 60 days of its initiation. If the inquiry extends beyond 60 days, the reasons for the extension will be documented by the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer and will be retained with the record of the inquiry.

The written report of the inquiry shall state what evidence was reviewed, shall indicate the relevant expertise of the persons reviewing the evidence, shall summarize the relevant interviews, and shall include the conclusions of the inquiry. The individual(s) against whom the allegation was made shall be given a copy of the inquiry report and shall have an opportunity to make written comment regarding the report. This report, including a conclusion as to whether there is reasonable cause to believe that misconduct has occurred, shall be forwarded to the provost (with a copy to the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer) through the appropriate dean who should make whatever comment or recommendation is deemed warranted.

2. The Provost, with the advice and counsel of the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer and others as appropriate, shall decide whether to close the matter or to appoint an Investigating Committee. If findings from the inquiry provide sufficient basis for conducting an investigation, the investigation must be started within 30 days of completion of the inquiry. The written report of the inquiry will be made available to the Investigating Committee.

3. If the Provost determines that it is not necessary to undertake an investigation, the Provost will report to the President the reasons for this decision and the findings of the inquiry. The report will be maintained in a secure manner for at least 3 years by the Office of the UAB Scientific Integrity Officer.

E. Investigation

For purposes of this policy, “investigation” means the formal examination and evaluation by a committee of all relevant facts to determine if scientific misconduct has occurred.

1. The investigation Committee is appointed by the Provost and will elect its own chairperson. Members of the Committee shall consist of at least three tenured faculty members who have the expertise to deal with technical aspects of the activities in question. At least two of these faculty members must be from outside the suspected individual’s department. The Provost shall take precautions not to appoint any committee member who has a real or apparent conflict of interest with the outcome of the investigation.

The chairperson shall conduct meetings of the Investigating Committee as frequently as required in order to determine whether or not the activities in question do indeed constitute misconduct. All such meetings and the deliberations thereof shall be held in confidence to protect the affected individual or individuals. Those accused of misconduct shall be given a written summary of the charges and supporting evidence and shall be afforded an opportunity to appear before the Committee to comment on allegations. The accused may be represented by counsel. The Office of Counsel shall be kept informed of the investigation process and shall advise the Investigating Committee concerning procedural matters.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Although rare, disagreements can arise that may affect a student's progress towards the completion of the degree. The parties involved in such a dispute should make a good faith effort to discuss and resolve the disagreement. The following guidelines may be helpful.

Step 1. Identify the problem; clearly define what happened and what you perceive is needed to resolve the issue.

Step 2. Approach the other person or group involved with the dispute one-on-one. Set up a mutually agreeable time to talk; listen and ask to be listened to; use "I" statements when speaking; avoid assigning blame or leveling accusations.

Step 3. If these steps do not culminate in a resolution, the parties involved with the dispute should agree to approach an impartial third party, a mediator, who will respect confidentiality and with whom the situation can be discussed. The Program Director will suggest such a third party if asked. The mediator may be able to help the parties involved reach a resolution.

Step 4. If no resolution is found then you may submit the disagreement to the Graduate Program for arbitration. Please follow these procedures:

- a. Each party in the dispute should submit a written description of the disagreement to the Program Director and the Chair. Please include a description of the actions taken to resolve the dispute to date and the name of the mediator who was involved.
- b. The Graduate Program Director will review the written documents. This group will make a determination as to whether or not the disagreement is Program-related and thus appropriate for arbitration at the Program level.
- c. If the dispute is found to be Program-related, the Graduate Program Director, together with the Graduate Program Committee, will act as an arbitrator. If the dispute involves the Program Director, Associate Director or any member of the Program Committee, then that individual will be excused from the deliberations. The Committee may request additional information from the parties involved. The Program Director and the Admissions and Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the problem within 14 calendar days following receipt of the written document or following the receipt of any additional materials. In the event that a quorum of the Committee is not available within this time period, the Committee will meet as soon thereafter as a quorum can be gathered. The Committee may also ask the parties in the dispute to appear before the committee to provide additional information.
- d. The result of the Committee's deliberations will be communicated in writing to the parties involved in the dispute within seven (7) calendar days after the meeting.

Step 5. To Chair for final review of arbitration before proceeding to Appeals Board.

If a party involved in the dispute is not satisfied with the outcome of the arbitration process, an appeal may be submitted to the Graduate School Appeals Board. Please see the Graduate Student Handbook, Graduate School Appeals Board (pg. 18) for specific information about the appeals process.

THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. They are:

- The right to inspect and review student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access

Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading

Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning the alleged failures by the University of Alabama at Birmingham to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

<http://sa.uab.edu/enrollmentservices/ferpa/default.asp>

OTHER UAB POLICIES APPLICABLE TO GBS GRADUATE STUDENTS

Please see the [UAB Student Handbook "*Direction – Policies and Procedures*"](#) and the following policies and guidelines:

- [Computer Software Copying and Use Policy](#)
- [Copyright Policy](#)
- [Drug-Free Campus Policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunity and Discriminatory Harassment Policy](#)
- [Falsification of UAB Records and Documents](#)
- [Health Care Policy For International Students and Scholars](#)
- [Immunization Policy](#)
- [Intellectual Property / Patent Policy](#)
- [Policy Concerning AIDS and HIV Infection](#)
- [Policy Concerning Consensual Romantic Relationships](#)
- [Student Participation in Proprietary Research](#)
- [Scientific Ethics](#)
- [UAB Student Records Policy](#)

GBS FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS' GUIDANCE AND POLICIES

Graduate Biomedical Sciences Faculty Participation Guidelines

Participating faculty are expected to be full-time, UAB faculty with a current UAB Graduate School Faculty appointment. Participants are expected to be scientifically productive and possess expertise in the themes in which they request membership. They are also expected to be, or become, actively involved in one or more GBS themes. Evidence of such current or planned active involvement in GBS theme(s) includes mentoring a GBS student, teaching in GBS courses, service on student thesis or examination committees, judging GBS rotation talks or posters, teaching in advanced courses in GBS programs, serving as a preceptor for a rotation student, or interviewing prospective students. Funding to support students' stipends and research projects is expected but not essential for GBS participation. However, to accept thesis students, and in most cases rotation students, into their laboratories, GBS participants will need to provide evidence of adequate funding.

Application materials for GBS faculty status review include a completed GBS Faculty Requested Information Form, a current NIH SF424 (R&R) Biosketch including Research Support or a similar document, and information on past and current trainees. The application form is available online, by contacting the Graduate Biomedical Sciences Office.

Participating faculty will be reviewed on a three year cycle. In addition, at the end of each calendar year, they will be asked to provide an updated NIH Biosketch including Research Support or similar biosketch to the GBS office.

To request application and review of appointment for GBS Faculty status, please contact the GBS office, Savitha Memula, smemula@uab.edu, 996-9798. For further information concerning GBS Faculty status, please contact Dr. Paul Gamlin, Chair, GBS Faculty Review Committee, pgamlin@uab.edu, 934-0322. To apply for UAB Graduate School Faculty appointment, please see [Recommendation for Appointment to Graduate Faculty](#).

Direct Admission of Students to GBS Themes by Department Recommendation

Although the Graduate Biomedical Sciences leadership affirms the general principle that GBS students should be admitted to the doctoral Themes via the GBS Application process (<https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uab-grad>), it acknowledges that under some circumstances UAB departments will admit students for doctoral training outside of the regular GBS Admissions process. The following guidelines specify rules under which students admitted directly to a departmental program can join a GBS Thematic Program.

In order for a student who was directly admitted into a UAB departmental doctoral training program to be transferred into a GBS Theme, the following process must be completed and regulations observed.

1. The Chair and the anticipated thesis mentor must agree in writing to provide financial support of the student's stipend, tuition, and fees. Ultimate financial responsibility will reside with the departmental Chair.
2. The student's credentials must first be reviewed and approved by the Admissions Committee of the relevant Theme, and then by the GBS Admissions Committee. The GBS Admissions Committee will not review the student for GBS admission without submission of the Chair's agreement. Both of these Committees must specify that the student's credentials are comparable to or exceed the credentials of the pool of students that were admitted into that Theme during the current or preceding academic year.

3. The student must agree to complete a minimum of two eight- to ten-week research rotations with GBS faculty members before commencing thesis research. It is assumed that the first rotation will be with the anticipated thesis mentor. The anticipated thesis mentor and the mentor's primary department Chair should recognize that if the research pursued in the second rotation does not benefit the research in the anticipated thesis mentor's laboratory, this may preclude supporting the student's stipend during this rotation from the anticipated thesis mentor's research grants, in which case non-grant funds from either the mentor or the department Chair will be required to support the student's stipend during this second rotation. The GBS will not provide funds to support the stipends of students admitted directly through a department.
4. The student must agree to comply with all requirements of the Theme that accepts them. In return, the Theme agrees to make available to the student all opportunities and academic courses that can be accessed by students admitted through the regular GBS Admissions Process.
5. If, after completing two rotations, the student chooses a laboratory for dissertation research that is outside the department that originally admitted the student, the original department will be obligated to absorb all expenses incurred by the student to date. Following transfer to mentorship under a new department, the financial obligation for the student will transfer to the receiving department, with this obligation documented by execution of the usual Thesis Laboratory registration document.
6. If any unanticipated problems develop with students admitted through this mechanism, they should first be referred for resolution to the Steering Committee of the Theme in which the student is enrolled. If the problem cannot be resolved by the Theme Steering Committee, it will be referred to a subcommittee of 3 members of the GBS Steering and Oversight Committee, appointed by the GBS SOC Chair, for final binding resolution.

GBS SOC 6.14.2011

Financial Support of GBS Theme Students Needing to Change Laboratories

This policy covers theme students who need to change laboratories due to circumstances out of their control (mentor leaving UAB, mentor illness or death, incompatibility between mentor & student).

- 1) If a student finds him/herself in one of the situations listed above, then the Theme Director, the SOC Chair, and the thesis committee needs to be notified. These individuals will work with the students to quickly find a new rotation mentor.
- 2) The student will be free to choose a rotation mentor from any GBS Faculty with appropriate training capacity and interest. Although it will be encouraged for the student to pick a mentor in the same theme, it is not a requirement. If the mentor is not in the student's theme, then this choice and the impact on coursework requirements need to be discussed with the current and future theme director before the rotation will be approved. A GBS Rotation Form for Displaced Students, signed by all parties, must be submitted.
- 3) The rotation with the potential new thesis mentor will be four weeks. If a second rotation is necessary, it will also be four weeks in length.
- 4) The student's stipend during these rotations will be initially covered by the department of the previous mentor.
 - a. If the student chooses a faculty mentor in the same department, then the Chair will decide when the stipend cost is transferred to the new faculty mentor.
 - b. If the student chooses a new faculty mentor in a different department, then the stipend costs for the time of the final determinate rotation (4 weeks) will be reimbursed to the original department

by the new department. These monies can either come from the faculty grants or from departmental accounts.

- 5) There will be no reimbursement of the charge back monies already paid by the original department.
- 6) Permission for more than two 4 week rotations will be given on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the SOC Chair, the original Theme Director, and original Department Chair.

GBS SOC 7.19.11

HOW TO DEAL WITH DISTRESSED STUDENTS

Prepared by the UAB Counseling & Wellness Center

Any member of the UAB community may come into contact with a distressed student. Being aware of distress signals, methods of intervention, and sources of help for the student can help you feel more in control of situations that may arise. The mental health professionals at the Center for Counseling & Wellness are available to faculty and staff for consultation regarding these issues. Feel free to call us at 934-5816 if you would like to discuss these matters further.

DISTRESS SIGNALS

Listed below are some of the more common signs that someone is in distress. This list is intended to provide only basic information.

- **Depression**

While we all may feel depressed from time to time, "normal" depressions may consist of only one or two symptoms and usually pass within days. Clinically depressed students will exhibit multiple symptoms for a longer period of time. Some of these symptoms are sleep disturbances, poor concentration, change in appetite, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, withdrawal, poor hygiene, loss of self-esteem, and preoccupation with death.

- **Agitation or acting out**

This would represent a departure from normal or socially appropriate behavior. It might include being disruptive, restlessness or hyperactivity, being antagonistic, and increased alcohol and/or drug abuse.

- **Disorientation**

Some distressed students may seem "out of it." You may witness a limited awareness of what is going on around them, forgetting or losing things, misperception of facts or reality, rambling or disconnected speech, and behavior that seems out of context or bizarre.

- **Drug and alcohol abuse**

Signs of intoxication during class or interaction with university officials are indicative of a problem that requires attention.

- **Suicidal thoughts**

Most people who attempt suicide communicate early messages about their distress. These messages can range from "I don't want to be here", to a series of vague "good-byes", to "I'm going to kill myself." Non-verbal messages could include giving away valued items, and putting legal, financial, and university affairs in order. *All of the above messages should be taken seriously.*

- **Violence and aggression**

You may become aware of students who may be dangerous to others. This may be manifested by physically violent behavior, verbal threats, threatening e-mail or letters, harassing or stalking behavior, and papers or exams that contain violent or threatening material.

Intervention Guidelines

While it is not expected that you be a "watchdog" or that you will provide a thorough assessment, you may be the first contact for a student in distress and in a position to ask a few questions. Following these guidelines can lead to a hopeful outcome for everyone involved.

- **Safety first!**

Always keep safety in mind as you interact with a distressed student. Maintain a safe distance and

a route of escape should you need it. If danger to you or the student seems imminent, call 911 or the UAB Police at 934-3535. After stabilizing the situation, notify the Non-academic Judicial Affairs Office at 934-4175.

- **Avoid escalation**

Distressed students can be easily provoked. Avoid threatening, humiliating, and intimidating responses. It is usually not a good idea to "pull rank" and assert authority unless you are certain of the student's mental health status. Distressed students are in need of listening and support. One can always remind them of rules at a later time.

- **Ask direct questions**

Take a calm and matter-of-fact approach. Ask students directly if they are drunk, confused or if they have thoughts of harming themselves. You need not be afraid to ask these questions. You will not be "putting ideas in their heads" by doing so. Most distressed students are relieved to know that someone has noticed and cares.

- **Do not assume you are being manipulated**

While it is true that some students appear distressed in order to get attention or relief from responsibility, only a thorough assessment can determine if this is the case. Attention-seekers can have serious problems and be in danger, too.

- **Know your limits**

You will be able to assist many distressed students on your own by simply listening and referring them for further help. Some students will, however, need much more than you can offer. Respect any feelings of discomfort you may have and focus on getting them the assistance they need. You can do this by affirming them for confiding in you, being accepting and nonjudgmental, trying to identify the problem area, and indicating that seeking professional help is a positive and responsible thing to do.

Some signs that indicate you may have over-extended yourself include:

- Feeling stressed out or overwhelmed by the situation
- Feeling angry at the student
- Feeling afraid
- Having thoughts of "adopting" or otherwise rescuing the student
- "Reliving" similar experiences of your own

Referral Resources

- UAB Counseling & Wellness Center: 934-5816
- Women's Center: 934-6946
- Campus Counseling Center: 934-3779
- UAB Police: 911 or 934-3535 (emergency); 934-4434 (non-emergency)
- Crisis Center: 323-7777
- Rape Response: 323-rape (323-7273)
- UAB Hospital ER: 934-4322
- Andy Marsch, Non-Academic Judicial Officer: 934-4175

Our Mission

The mission of the Counseling & Wellness Center is to:

- provide counseling to enrolled students

- provide outreach services and other activities oriented toward emotional health issues, personal development, and the prevention of psychological and behavioral problems to the UAB community
- provide training opportunities for students in the helping professions

UAB Counseling & Wellness Center

924 19th Street South

Holley-Mears Building 150

(205) 934-5816

email: counseling@uab.edu

GUIDELINES FOR UAB MSTP STUDENTS IN GBS THEMES

1. **MS1 MSTP** students (1st year in the MSTP) are required to take GBS core courses 707 and 708 but do not take GBS 709 in Fall term. They do not take any GBS courses in the Spring of their MS1 Year. They are exempt from any other theme-specific courses taught in the Fall of the GS1 year. These include:

- BSB: GBS 780 (BSB Lab Methods)
- CB/CMDB: GBS 710 (Cell Signaling)
- Genetics: GBS 724 (Principles of Genetic Inherited Diseases)
- Immunology: GBS 740 (Intro to Immunology)
- Microbiology: GBS 768 (Communicating Science)
- Neuroscience: GBS 730 (Intro to Neurobiology); GBS 731 (Principles of Cell Neuro)
- PBMM: GBS 704 (Intro to Experimental Medicine)
- All themes: any required seminars or journal clubs
- The MSTP students do all rotations during the summer months (see below)

2. **MS2 MSTP** students will choose a **theme-specific curriculum track** in the late Fall of their 2nd year in the MSTP (i.e. their 2nd year in medical school). The theme-specific curriculum track choice deadline is typically November 1. They commence with their theme-specific coursework in spring of their MS2 year (see #3 below). An e-mail will be sent in November to the theme managers notifying them of those MSTP students who have chosen their theme-based curriculum track.

MSTP Office:

- Will obtain these choices from the MSTP students and transmit these choices to the Theme and to GBS Data Support.
- At the time of theme selection, the MSTP will submit to the appropriate themes a student fact sheet.
- The MSTP will inform the student that they need to meet with theme manager and/or director to review required and/or recommended courses and sequence prior to registration for Spring term (i.e., typically by early Nov, in advance of registration for Spring courses. The MSTP will communicate this date to MSTP students). After this meeting, the student will promptly communicate the agreed upon courses to MSTP, confirmed with the theme.
- All MSTP emails to MSTP students who have a theme affiliation, **which discuss theme information or requirements** will be copied to the appropriate theme(s).
- Obtain course descriptions of GBS courses taken by MSTP students and transmit those GBS course descriptions to the UASOM for inclusion in the Medical School course catalog.
- The MSTP office will facilitate obtaining signatures on the UASOM grade sheets from the course-masters and transmitting them to the UASOM.

Theme Directors/Administrators:

- After this notification, the theme manager should immediately initiate welcome contact with MSTP student, cc'd to mstp@uab.edu.
- These students need to immediately be added to any theme e-mail lists. It is recommended that all theme emails that include theme MSTP students should be copied to mstp@uab.edu;
- MS1s (fall term) and MS2s (spring term) will need access to the Blackboard sites for all classes. MSTP student names and student numbers will be provided to the Registrar's office by the MSTP manager. The Registrars Office will add the MSTP students to their chosen courses so they may gain access to Blackboard sites.

- Letter grades for all courses will be reported to the MSTP Office for reporting to the UASOM for the student's transcript at the end of the semester. This should be done at the same time these grades are entered into the online system. The UASOM requires individual grade sheets for each class/instructor. The MSTP will facilitate getting these grade sheet signatures.
- MSTP students transfer to oversight of their graduate theme requirements starting with the Fall term of their GS1 (MS3) year. Any MSTP specific regulations (i.e. every 6 month committee meetings with reports back to the MSTP) will be overseen by the MSTP office and copies of the reports will be sent to the appropriate theme for their files.
- GBS course descriptions must be provided to the MSTP for transmittal to the UASOM. All courses taken by MSTP students while enrolled in UASOM must be dual listed in the UASOM catalogue. The MSTP Office will obtain this information from GBS course descriptions, which can be obtained through the UAB Academic Catalogue under course description. Therefore, it is important that the course descriptions are updated annually so to provide the most current information to the UASOM.

Course Requirements:

- These MS2 MSTP students will take the normal GS1 Spring Coursework required by the theme of choice with the following exceptions (to be updated as theme courses evolve):
 - o Neuroscience Theme: GBS 732 (Graduate Neuroscience) – MSTP Students are only required to take the discussion section of this course (GBS 791). For GBS737 (Student Summer Seminar) – MSTP students will be required to take this course as per theme requirements, but will be excused for the month of June following the MS2 year, if the student is enrolled in a Family Medicine clerkship. The MSTP will notify the Neuroscience Administrator of the names of the students for which this exception needs to apply.
 - o All Themes: MS2 MSTP students cannot take any required coursework during the month of May due to the UASOM requirement for USMLE Step I.
 - o All required theme GS1 coursework (Spring and Fall) must be taught in the 8-10am timeslot to accommodate the concurrent medical school coursework that the MSTP students are also required to take.

3. **GS1 MSTP** students (3rd year in the program), are required to follow all theme requirements for advanced coursework and qualifying exams. In order to ensure that the student is meeting theme-specific requirements, it is up to the theme to use appropriate oversight to make sure the student is meeting their specific theme requirements. However, there are several unique aspects to the training of the MSTP students in the themes:

- MSTP students typically perform 3 research rotations, 1) summer before MS1 yr; 2) summer following MS1; and 3) summer following MS2 (some MSTP MS2s will choose to do a Family Medicine rotation, which will delay this third research rotation by one month. MSTP students can directly enter a thesis lab after two rotations with MSTP Director permission.
- MSTP students register for either MSTP 798 (non-dissertation research) or MSTP 799 (dissertation research), in accord with MSTP NIH T32 program guidance.
- The deadline for MSTP students to select their thesis mentor and final theme affiliation is two weeks before the end of their third rotation (summer after their second year of medical school). This is usually in mid-August. Mentor choices will be communicated promptly to the theme and to GBS Data Support.
- MSTP students are required to set up a meeting with the Theme Director within one month of choosing a theme/laboratory.
- MSTP students must form their dissertation committees within 6-months of joining their laboratories and they must have dissertation committee meetings every 6-months.

- The MSTP office will help the student create and process the Graduate Committee Selection Form, Change in Graduate Committee Form, the Admission to Candidacy form, and the Application for Degree Forms. The Graduate School has agreed to copy the mentor, theme, and MSTP, once the forms are approved by the Graduate School Dean's Office.
- The MSTP office tracks committee meetings and reminds students/mentors.
- MSTP students have to fill out a report following each dissertation committee meeting. The MSTP office tracks these reports and reminds students/mentors if they are not received. The MSTP office will provide copies of these reports to the respective student's theme administrators for their files.
- GBS Bioethics – MSTP students are required to take this, but due to medical school conflicts, they cannot take it the summer of their MS2 year. In general, they will take this course the summer after their GS1 year (their 3rd year in the MSTP). If the course is scheduled for Fall term, they will take this course in the Fall of their GS1 year.
- GBS Biostatistics – MSTP students are required to take this course as a minimum. In general, they will take this course the summer after their GS1 year (their 3rd year in the MSTP). If the course is scheduled for Fall term, they will take this course in the Fall of their GS1 year. Some MSTP students may opt to take a more intensive biostatistics course and that will be approved by the MSTP office and that approval transmitted to the specific theme involved. This requirement cannot be waived based on previous undergraduate courses.

4. The MSTP students have several additional requirements:

- MSTP students are required to have their assigned MSTP mentor on their Thesis Committee. The MSTP Mentor can either be an ex officio member or a full member of the Dissertation Committee.
- Other MSTP-specific requirements, including required MSTP events and MSTP-specific courses are listed below:
 - o MSTP 794: Translational Research Seminar (required every semester-Fall, Spring, Summer) (2nd Wednesday of each month, 5:30-7pm)
 - o MSTP 795: Continuing Clinical Education (will be taken periodically in upper GS years) (offered Fall/Spring semester)(requires clinical experiences that will be scheduled around the attending and student's schedules, as well as a translational JC which occurs on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1)
 - o MSTP Retreat (on a summer weekend in June or July)

5. Other:

- All themes will receive copies of the current MSTP Handbook or a notice when the online handbook is updated.
- Copies of up-to-date Theme Training Plans, Qualifying Exam Guidelines, and the 1st year GBS curriculum grid will be provided to MSTP annually by May 1 and updates to the GBS Handbook will be forwarded to MSTP as to all themes.
- The MSTP must submit GBS course descriptions annually to the UABSOM by January 1 of each year; therefore, updated course descriptions should be provided to the MSTP Office by December 15.
- Financial oversight of MSTP students is managed by the MSTP Office.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>GBS THEME PROGRAMS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>TELE/FAX</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Biochemistry & Structural Biology			
Tim Townes, Ph.D.	Director	934.5294	ttownes@uab.edu
Larry Delucas, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934-5329	Duke2@uab.edu
Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.	Co-Director	996-2175	tryan@uab.edu
David Schneider, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934-4781	dschneid@uab.edu
Peter Prevelige, Ph.D.	Co-Director	975-5327	prevelig@uab.edu
Dianne Vickers	Program Manager	934.0580 975.2188	dvickers@uab.edu
Cancer Biology			
Rosa Serra, Ph.D.	Director	934.0842	rserra@uab.edu
Theresa Strong, Ph.D.	Co-Director	975.9878	tvstrong@uab.edu
Patricia Matthews	Program Manager	934.7034 996.6749	pm1@uab.edu
Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology			
Bradley Yoder, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934.0994	byoder@uab.edu
Alecia Gross, Ph.D.	Co-Director	975.8396	agross@uab.edu
Nan Travis	Program Manager	996.4045 996.6749	ntravis@uab.edu
Genetics and Genomic Sciences			
Daniel Bullard, Ph.D.	Director	934.7768	dcbullard@uab.edu
Kai Jiao, M.D., Ph.D.	Assoc Director	996.4198	kjiao@uab.edu
Nan Travis	Program Manager	996.4045 996.6749	ntravis@uab.edu
Immunology			
Peter Burrows, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934.6529	peterb@uab.edu
Scott Barnum, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934.4972	sbarnum@uab.edu
Kym Proctor	Program Manager	934.3857 996.6749	kproctor@uab.edu
Microbiology			
Janet Yother, Ph.D.	Director	934.9531	jyother@uab.edu
Michael Niederweis, Ph.D.	Co-Director	996.2711	mnieder@uab.edu
Peter Prevelige, Ph.D.	Co-Director	975.5327	prevelig@uab.edu
Kym Proctor	Program Manager	934.3857 996.6749	kproctor@uab.edu

GBS THEME PROGRAMS**TITLE****TELE/FAX****E-MAIL****Neuroscience**

Scott Wilson, Ph.D.	Director	975.5573	livvy01@uab.edu
Tara Desilva, Ph.D.	Co-Director	996.6896	desilvat@uab.edu
Patricia Matthews	Program Manager	934.7034 996.6749	pm1@uab.edu

Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine

Michelle Fanucchi, Ph.D.	Director	934.7230	Fanucchi@uab.edu
Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.	Co-Director	975.9225	rakeshp@uab.edu
Jason Noah	Program Manager	934.7810 996.6749	jnoah@uab.edu

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMS**HHMI Med to Grad**

Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.	Director	975.9225	rakeshp@uab.edu
Scott Austin	Program Manager	934.2845 996.6749	scotta@uab.edu

Medical Scientist Training Program

Robin Lorenz, M.D., Ph.D.	Director	934.0676	rlorenz@uab.edu
Lou Justement, Ph.D.	Co-Director	934.1429	ljust@uab.edu
Randy Seay, MA, MPA, MPH	Program Manager	934.4092	rseay@uab.edu
Mindy Robbins	Admin Associate	934.0440 975.8427	minrob@uab.edu

GBS STAFF

Susan, Rich, Ph.D.	GBS Director, Associate Dean of Life Sciences
Scott Austin	Business Officer 1
Savitha Memula	Data Support Specialist
Keri Dickens	Office Services Specialist

Commitment to our students

The goal of the faculty associated with the Graduate Biomedical Sciences Programs is to provide a rigorous training experience for doctoral students in the biomedical sciences. It is this training approach that best prepares our students for future research careers in academia or industry in two key ways: (i) by providing our students with the skills and knowledge that are required to address today's complex biomedical problems (e.g., cancer or hypertension; diseases that must be tackled using multiple investigative strategies); and (ii) by enabling our students to select research areas that best fit their talents by exposing them to various points of view and scientific interests.



**University of Alabama at Birmingham
Graduate Biomedical Sciences**

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