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Graduate Program Administration

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Biomedical Engineering History and Overview

Biomedical Engineering at Rutgers University was initially established in 1965 as a track within electrical engineering, offering M.S. degrees with a biomedical engineering emphasis. In 1986, the State of New Jersey formally chartered the Rutgers Department of Biomedical Engineering as an independent entity within the School of Engineering with exclusive responsibility for granting M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biomedical Engineering. The Department developed its graduate programs in collaboration with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) to provide a strong foundation in the basic biomedical and clinical sciences along with rigorous training in engineering fundamentals. The undergraduate program in Biomedical Engineering was inaugurated in 1991 under the “applied sciences” option within the School of Engineering; a formal undergraduate B.S. degree in BME was approved by the University in 1997 and by the State in 1999. Finally, the Masters of Engineering (M.Eng) degree was approved in BME in June 2012. On July 1, 2013, UMDNJ became a part of Rutgers. The former UMDNJ Graduate School in Biomedical Sciences (UMDNJ-GSBS) became the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS). Our program is considered “joint” with the Rutgers Graduate School of New Brunswick (RU-GSNB) and RBHS-GSBS. A completely online M.Eng degree was first offered in Fall 2013 and we are currently known to be one of very few online BME ME programs in the nation.

The graduate program in Biomedical Engineering includes over 70 faculty from Rutgers science and engineering departments, Robert Wood Johnson basic biomedical and engineering clinical science departments, other academic institutions in the area, and researchers from local industry.

As of September 2016, the department census is as follows:

- 25 core departmental faculty
- 72 graduate program faculty
- 5 educational and research staff members
- more than 225 undergraduate students
- 38 M.S., 12 M.Eng, and 9 Doctoral Track Masters students
- 11 fully online M.Eng students
- 55 Ph.D. students, 1 MD/Ph.D. student
The new BME building (shown on the cover) was dedicated on April 18, 2007 and has about 80,000 square feet of high quality educational and research space and houses state-of-the art microfabrication, tissue culture, and microscopy laboratories, including small animal facilities. The BME department is located on the Busch Campus in Piscataway.

The Department hosts and co-hosts a number of nationally recognized research and training programs including:

- DoE GAANN Fellowship Program in BME on “Microphysiological Systems”
- NIH Biotechnology and Bioengineering Ph.D. Training Program
- NIH Postdoctoral Training Program in Tissue Engineering and Implant Science

Faculty within the Department of Biomedical Engineering hold prominent positions in the following university-wide “Centers-of-Excellence”:

- NJ Center for Biomaterials
- Rutgers Engineering Research Center on Structured Organic Compounds
- Rutgers Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine
- Rutgers Center for Computational Bioengineering, Imaging and Modeling
- Rutgers Center for Pharmaceutical Science and Engineering
- Princeton-Rutgers Center for Biomolecular Imaging
- Rutgers Center for Packaging Science and Engineering
- Rutgers Laboratory of Vision Research
- Rutgers Center for Advanced Information Processing
- BioMAPS Institute for Quantitative Biology
- Stem Cell Institute of New Jersey

The Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering is a joint program with Rutgers University GS NB and GSBS. The graduate degrees in Biomedical Engineering are given from Rutgers and UMDNJ. Both Graduate Deans sign the Diploma. No matter which Graduate School a BME student is enrolled in, the course curriculum and access to services will be the same. RBHS-GSBS has a website with a plethora of information and a handbook to look through that is similar to the one you are reading. [http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/education/gsbs/](http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/education/gsbs/)
Graduate Program Description

The mission of the graduate program is to provide outstanding graduate level training in six critical areas of biomedical engineering and technology. Thesis/dissertation projects may straddle multiple areas given that these areas are broadly defined and overlapping.

- Molecular Systems Bioengineering
- Nanosystems and Microsystems Bioengineering
- Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine
- Biomechanics and Rehabilitation Engineering
- Physiologic Systems and Bioinstrumentation
- Biomedical Imaging
- Neuroengineering

All graduate students (M.S., M.Eng and Ph.D.) must take: three of five BME core courses; one advanced engineering mathematics course; one advanced course in molecular biology of cells; bioengineering electives; Clinical Practicum; Engineering Ethics; and Engineering Writing. Students are expected to have a background in Physiology in the undergraduate level or graduate level physiology courses may need to be taken. PhD students are required to take Life Science/Medical electives. PhD students can elect to receive the M.Eng degree after he/she successfully defends his/her oral PhD Proposal Defense. Students are expected to attend the Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series throughout their graduate careers. The breakdown of the M.S., M.Eng and Ph.D. curriculum can be found starting on page 10.

The M.S. degree requires 6 research credits. M.Eng requires 3 non-thesis study credits. The Ph.D. requires at least 34 research credits and 3 “rotation” credits. The department wants each student to excel in their studies and to facilitate that, grades of “C+” or below in any core BME course will be handled as follows: One C+ = notification of probation. Two C+’s = warning that upon the third C+ grade, the student must leave the Program. Three or more C+’s = Immediate de-registration and failure to register in future semesters.

During the first academic year, students are required to select their dissertation research advisor. Selection must take place no later than the end of the first summer (beginning of next summer for students entering in January). During the first summer of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs,
each student has the option to complete a one-month research rotation with three different principal investigators if they are unable to determine an advisor by that time. All Ph.D. students must undergo an Annual Research Meeting and have a form signed by the committee and advisor and submitted for the Graduate Program Director. Information for this procedure starts on page 18.

At the end of the first academic year (June), students admitted to the PhD program must a qualifying exam. This Procedure is comprised of a written literature review and research proposal (along the lines of a NIH proposal) presented to and evaluated by a panel of faculty examiners, during the month of June after the first year of graduate studies. See additional information on Pages 13 and 31 for details. This research proposal is distinct from a thesis proposal and should not be confused with the PhD thesis proposal presentation described below. The outcomes of this procedure in combination with core course-based performance will be used to determine qualification for PhD Candidacy.

In collaboration with the research advisor, the Ph.D. student will formally defend a proposed dissertation topic, preferably by the end of the second academic year and in any case no later than at the end of the fall semester of the third academic year. Ph.D. students should plan to defend their thesis dissertation by the end of their fifth year. It is a Graduate School regulation that students must complete all of their Ph.D. work no later than 7 years after entering the program. Rutgers BME students are expected to maintain the highest academic standards. Beyond the requirements of the Graduate School of New Brunswick, the BME Graduate Program permits no more than 2 grades below a B: students whose grades fall below this standard will be required to leave the program. The department is committed to being flexible to meet our students’ needs in reaching these goals, however, we seek at the same time to advance our students toward robust and successful scientific and engineering careers, and for this reason we believe in setting goals and monitoring student progress to achieve these goals.

**MD/PhD Combined Program**

Students who are interested in this Dual Degree program will take their medical training at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and PhD training at one of three collaborating institutions: RWJMS, Rutgers, or Princeton. The program provides 3 years of graduate training and 4 years of Medical training. Year 3 starts the graduate training years. In order to apply to this program, students complete an MD/PhD application from the website [http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/education/gsbs/md_phd_program/index.html](http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/education/gsbs/md_phd_program/index.html) and simultaneously apply to RWJ Medical School through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) at...
This program is highly competitive and only about 6 students are accepted each year into the MD/PhD program. Students who are admitted into this program may substitute some of their MD courses as BME Program Requirements subject to written approval of the Graduate Program Director. A passing score on the USMLE step 1 is accepted in lieu of the Physiology course requirement and its associated portion on the Qualifying Exam. Typically M.D. students will also have taken graduate-level Molecular Biology and Biochemistry courses that may be substituted for the BME requirement on this topic with the BME Graduate Director's approval. Finally, M.D. students may have taken courses that can be used as Life Science or other electives as appropriate. M.D./PhD students should meet with the BME Graduate Director as soon as they are admitted into the joint program to clarify what requirements may be waived in their case.

MASTERS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS, MS and M.Eng

Students have two Masters Degree options. All Thesis-based students should seek to complete M.S.; students who have not completed this option by the end of their third year will be required to leave the graduate program with an M.Eng. The options consist of the following course requirements:

**M.S. (thesis option): 27 Course Credits + 6 Research Credits:**
3 BME Core Courses (9); Advanced Math (3); Advanced Cell Biology (3); BME Seminar/Professional Development Credits (3); 3 Electives (9); Research Credits (6). 33 credits total.

**M.ENG (non-thesis option): 30 Course Credits + 3 Non-Thesis Study Credits:**
3 BME Core Courses (9); Advanced Math (3); Advanced Cell Biology (3); BME Seminar/Professional Development Credits (3); 4 Electives (12); Non-Thesis Study (3). The M.Eng. is considered a terminal degree that does not lead to a Ph.D. 33 credits total.

In both degree programs there is a final comprehensive examination (thesis defense or paper/literature review/project), normally taken during the term that will complete the student's course of study, which will emphasize the student's area of concentration.

**Final Comprehensive Examination:** A final comprehensive examination will be taken by all students enrolled in the M.S. and M.Eng program. The examination will be conducted by the student’s committee. This committee will be composed of at least three members of the BME graduate faculty. For M.S, the student must defend his or her written M.S. dissertation by oral examination. For M.Eng, the student must defend his or her independent study or research based final paper/project. The final paper can be a critical analysis of a current research topic, a laboratory research based report, an NIH style research proposal, or another project directed by the advisor.
“Bill of Rights”
For
Graduate Students in Biomedical Engineering
Rutgers University

Guidelines for the education and mentoring of PhD students were adopted by the faculty of Rutgers Biomedical Engineering on February 17, 2006. It is not possible or desirable to specify rigid criteria for mentorship that will fit all situations; nevertheless these guidelines were endorsed as goals that all faculty and students should strive for. As a matter of policy, the Rutgers BME faculty believes that mentors have a responsibility to educate, guide, and support their students in a scholarly and respectful manner. Students for their parts are expected to uphold the highest standards of scholarship and academic integrity. Specifically,

1. PhD students should meet with their advisors on their research projects frequently enough so that guidance toward meaningful scientific and education progress is made. Typically, students should meet with their advisors weekly or once every two weeks, depending on the stage of their research.

2. Faculty should evaluate their graduate students’ progress in a timely and constructive way. There will be exceptions, but it is reasonable for students to expect to receive feedback every week or two.

3. All PhD students should expect to attend and present at national meetings and publish in peer-reviewed papers in leading journals. At a minimum, the expectation of our graduate program is that all PhD students will give at least one presentation at a national meeting, and publish at least one first author paper in a peer-reviewed journal before they graduate.

4. Students can expect exposure to and some experience in grant and progress report writing, paper reviewing, and other responsibilities involved in an active, modern lab.

5. It is the responsibility of the PhD advisor to financially support their PhD students who are in good standing. Funding can never be guaranteed; nevertheless faculty members make a commitment to the students when they enter the program that they will receive tuition and competitive stipends, and insofar as it is at all possible, members of the faculty must uphold this commitment. It is the responsibility of students to maintain the highest achievable productivity and academic standing.

In most situations, if these guidelines are not met, the problem can be resolved by open discussion between the student and advisor. If a resolution cannot be achieved after these discussions, the Graduate Program Director – or failing that, the Department Ombudsman – will make every effort to help either resolve the problem or direct the student to an alternative advisor.

Addendum:
Students must stay in touch with the BME Graduate Program Director and Program Administrator to request and receive the proper forms and documentations required by the program and graduate school, to keep them informed and updated on your progress, and to verify that you are on track by taking the right courses and making progress in your area of research.

It is important that enough time is given to your advisor and/or committee to review your papers, publications, thesis, and other work. Our program has a guideline that students should give 2 weeks’ notice to their advisor/committee before any deadline and the program expects the advisor/committee to return your work back to you within 2 weeks, pending any complications.
# BME M.S./M.Eng Program Curriculum

**FALL Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>BME Core Course (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>BME Core Course (3cr)*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>Bioengineering Elective (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:501</td>
<td>Mathematical Modeling for BME (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:601</td>
<td>Engineering Ethics/Seminar (1cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BME Seminars** (attendance required)

**SPRING Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>BME Core Course (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>BME Core Course (3cr)*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>Bioengineering Elective (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:586</td>
<td>Structure and Dynamics in Adult and Stem Cell Biology (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:602</td>
<td>Engineering Writing/Seminar (1cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BME Seminars** (attendance required)

**FALL & SPRING Year 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>Bioengineering Elective (3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:xxx</td>
<td>Bioengineering Elective (3cr) (As Needed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:628</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum (1cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:701/702</td>
<td>Research (3cr/3cr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:125:699</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Study (3cr) (M.Eng Only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BME Seminars** (attendance required)

---

**BME Core Courses**  
Must take 3 out of 5:

1. 16:125:561 BioImaging Methods (3cr)
2. 16:125:571 Biosignal Processing and Biomedical Imaging (3cr)
3. 16:125:572 Biocontrol, Modeling and Computation (3cr)
4. 16:125:573 Kinetics, Thermodynamics and Transport in Biomedicine (3cr)
5. 16:125:574 Biomechanics and Biomaterials (3cr)

**Physiology**  
Students must have taken an UG level Physiology course previously or the following course must be taken.

1. 16:125:581 Mammalian Physiology (online course-3cr)
OR Other Rutgers or RWJMS Physiology Courses – Contact the Graduate Program for information

**Advanced Engineering Mathematics**

1. 16:125:501 Mathematical Modeling for BME (3cr)

*Students may be asked to complete an alternate graduate-level math course based on need or availability. Students wishing to take an alternate math class should petition the graduate program director.*

**Advanced Cell Biology**

1. 16:125:586 Structure and Dynamics in Adult and Stem Cell Biology (3cr)

**Professional Developmental Courses** Must take 1, 2 and 5…3&4 are optional

1. 16:125:601 Engineering Ethics and Seminar (1cr)
2. 16:125:602 Engineering Writing and Seminar (1cr)
3. 16:125:607 Preparing Future Faculty I (1cr)
4. 16:125:608 Preparing Future Faculty II (1cr)
5. 16:125:628 Clinical Practicum (1cr)

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**Summary of Minimum M.S./M.Eng Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 out of 5 BME Core Courses</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Engineering Math Course</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Cell Biology Course</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bioengineering Electives (4 if M.Eng)</td>
<td>9 credits (12 credits if M.Eng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 out of 5 Professional Developmental Courses</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research (M.S. ONLY)</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Thesis Study (M.Eng ONLY)</td>
<td>3 credits (MUST take an additional 3 credit elective)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                                       | 33 credits|

* If schedule allows, take up to two core classes per semester. Minimum of three core classes required.
BME Ph.D. Program Curriculum 

Fall Year 1
16:125:xxx BME Core Course (3cr) *(Register for one, possibly two core courses)*
16:125:xxx BME Core Course (3cr)
16:155:501 Mathematical Modeling for BME (3cr)
16:125:699 Non-Thesis Rotation (3cr)
16:125:601 Engineering Ethics/Seminar (1cr)
BME Seminars (attendance required)

**Advisor Selection Forms (December through May)**

SPRING Year 1
16:125:xxx BME Core Course (3cr) *(Register for one or two core courses)*
16:125:xxx Bioengineering Elective (3cr)
16:125:586 Structure and Dynamics in Adult and Stem Cell Biology (3cr)
16:125:602 Engineering Writing/Seminar (1cr)
16:125:702 Research (3+cr)
BME Seminars (attendance required)

SUMMER Year 1
Research Based Qualifying Exam for Doctoral Studies tied in with “Engineering Writing 602”
(May/June)

FALL Year 2
16:125:xxx BME Core Course (3cr) *(Register for one remaining core course, if any – see note)*
16:125:xxx Bioengineering Elective (3cr) *(Register for one or two core courses)*
16:125:607 Preparing Future Faculty I (1cr)
16:125:701 Research (3+cr)
BME Seminars (attendance required)

SPRING Year 2
16:125:xxx Bioengineering Elective (3cr)
16:125:xxx Life/Medical Sciences Elective (3cr)
16:125:608 Preparing Future Faculty II (1cr)
16:125:628 Clinical Practicum (1cr)
16:125:702 Research (3+cr)
BME Seminars (attendance required)

SUMMER Year 2
Annual Research Verification Meeting
IDP Meeting
Prepare Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

FALL Year 3
BME Seminars (Attendance required)
16:125:701 Research (3+cr)
Electives (As required)

Deadline for Defense of Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

SPRING Year 3
16:125:702 Research (3+cr)
Electives (As required)

Years 4-6
16:125:701/2 Research (3+cr)
BME Seminars (Attendance required)
Electives (Optional)

Annual Research Verification Meetings (Summers of years 4-6)
IDP Meetings (Summers of years 4-6)
Final Thesis/Dissertation and Defense (Year 5 or 6)

*Students are required to complete a total of 3 core BME courses, in addition to Math and Cell Biology within the first three academic semesters.
BME Core Courses  Must take 3 out of 5:
1) 16:125:561 BioImaging Methods (3cr)
2) 16:125:571 Biosignal Processing and Biomedical Imaging (3cr)
3) 16:125:572 Biocontrol, Modeling and Computation (3cr)
4) 16:125:573Kinetics, Thermodynamics and Transport in Biomedicine (3cr)
5) 16:125:574 Biomechanics and Biomaterials (3cr)

Physiology
Students must have taken an UG level Physiology course previously or the following course must be taken.
1) 16:125:581 Mammalian Physiology (online course-3cr)
OR Other Rutgers or RWJMS Physiology Courses – Contact the Graduate Program for information

Advanced Engineering Mathematics
1) 16:125:501 Mathematical Modeling for BME (3cr)
^Students may be asked to complete an alternate graduate-level math course based on need or availability. Students wishing to take an alternate math class should petition the graduate program director.

Advanced Cell Biology
1) 16:125:586 Structure and Dynamics in Adult and Stem Cell Biology (3cr)

Medical/Life Science Elective
1) Life Science elective from the list in the Graduate Handbook or recommendation from Program Director
OR 16:148:514 Molecular Biology of Cells (3cr)
OR 16:115:511 Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (3cr)

Developmental Courses
1) 16:125:601 Engineering Ethics (1cr) (Required during 1st year)
2) 16:125:602 Engineering Writing (1cr) (Required during 1st year)
3) 16:125:607 Preparing Future Faculty I (1cr) (Required)
4) 16:125:608 Preparing Future Faculty II (1cr) (Required)
5) 16:125:628 Clinical Practicum (1cr) (Required)

Summary of Minimum Ph.D. Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 out of 5 BME Core Courses</td>
<td>9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Engineering Math Course</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Cell Biology Course</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science/Medical Elective</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bioengineering Electives</td>
<td>12 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Developmental Courses</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Thesis Study (1st year Rotation)</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research (minimum)</td>
<td>34 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72 credits (35 course credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:

- Prerequisite work may not count as an elective. Please check with the program first.
Ph.D. Qualifying Exam

Please note: Non-PhD students may NOT take the qualifier unless he/she has approval from the Graduate Program Director.

The first part of the Ph.D. qualifying procedure is based on a combination of written and oral examination that is administered during the first week of June, during the first year of studies, and core course grades accumulated during the first three semesters. The examination is comprised of a written literature review and research proposal (along the lines of a NIH proposal) presented to and evaluated by a panel of faculty examiners. The outcomes of the research examination in combination with core course-based performance (students receiving less than 2 C's in core courses are considered qualified and eligible) will be used to determine the first step of qualification for PhD Candidacy.

The second part of Ph.D. qualifying exam involves a satisfactory defense of a thesis proposal as early as 6 months after passing the qualifying exam and no later than the end of the fall semester of year 3.

To successfully give you post-qualifying status, both the written qualifier and oral proposal, have to be completed in a satisfactory manner.

For PhD students, a guide to progress is as follows:

1. Work on a research topic assigned by the Graduate Qualifying Coordinator and complete the written/oral research qualifier in June at the end of your first year.
2. Schedule and defend your Ph.D. proposal as early as 6 months after passing the written qualifier and no later than the fall semester of your third year.
3. Conduct “Annual Verification”, which is an annual review of your research progress by your research advisory/thesis committee, to be completed by August 15 of each year.
4. Schedule and successfully defend the Ph.D. thesis within 2 years after the Ph.D. proposal.
6. The graduate school mandates that a student finish the Ph.D. within 7 years after the student’s enter date. However, our program expects you to finish within 5 - 6 years, which students should be able to accomplish.
SUMMARY:
All applicants to the PhD degree program will be evaluated based on a revised PhD Qualifying Procedure. This Procedure is comprised of a written literature review and research proposal (along the lines of a NIH proposal) presented to and evaluated by a panel of faculty examiners, during the month of June after the first year of graduate studies. See Proposal format on page 30.

The outcomes of this procedure in combination with core course-based performance (students receiving less than 2 C's in core courses are considered qualified and eligible) will be used to determine qualification for PhD Candidacy.

DETAILS:

1. One part of the qualification for PhD candidacy is based on exceeding minimum grade requirements for core BME courses. The BME program will permit fewer than 2 C-grades (1 C-grade or less) in the core courses. The program will continue to permit up to 2 C-grades overall. Any student who gets more than 1 C-grade in a core course will be de-enrolled from the PhD program, reclassified in the Master's program, and given a maximum of 1 year to complete her/his work (as is the current situation for students who get more than 2 C-grades overall).

2. The major part of the qualification for PhD Candidacy is comprised of examination based on an original research proposal, which is described further below. Note that this proposal is distinct from the PhD thesis proposal and should not be confused with the thesis review or evaluation. Each PhD candidate will be assigned a research topic by the Graduate Qualifier Coordinator prior to Spring Break of the semester immediately preceding the qualifiers. By the third Wednesday following the end of exam week of the first year, the candidates will be required to provide a written proposal not to exceed 12 pages including references (NIH font & margin guidelines) to a panel of examiners. Within 2 weeks following this date, the student must give an oral presentation to a faculty panel who will then conduct an oral examination on the proposal. The panel will consist of 3 BME graduate program faculty, who will be previously selected by the Qualifier Coordinator. The students actively confer with the panel faculty to clarify the topic, obtain guidance on content, etc., and students will be encouraged to use existing research documents (e.g. from their research mentor) as guidelines for their qualifier proposals. Text from existing proposals may not be included in the qualifier proposal (except for revised proposals as described below).
Initially, the topics assigned will be come from a list provided by the Qualifier Coordinator, who in turn will solicit these from BME faculty. In future years, other formats for assigning topics may be considered, for example, topics provided by the panel or identified by the students themselves after prior approval from the panel. Each faculty panel will evaluate up to three PhD candidates. Depending on the number of PhD candidates being evaluated, 2-4 such panels may be needed to oversee the entire qualifying process in a given year.

**Possible Outcomes:** The examiners may:

a) pass the student;  OR  b) not pass the student;  OR  c) conditionally pass the student depending on well-defined criteria - e.g. the student must take certain courses within a year and get a B grade or better, or the student must revise the proposal in specified ways, to be approved by the panel within a prescribed time limit (typically 1 year).

A student who does not pass, either outright or by unsatisfactorily completing the conditional outcomes, will be disenrolled from the PhD program and enrolled in the Master’s program with the requirement of completing his or her work within 1 year of the qualifier date. As always, for students with extenuating circumstances (illness etc.), these criteria may be relaxed with written approval from the Graduate Program Director.

*Contingency:* If an examiner cannot be present, the presentation may be sent electronically and the examiner may participate in the oral examination by teleconference and approve or disapprove the proposal by email. In exceptional circumstances and with the written approval of the Graduate Program Director, the qualifier clock for a particular student can be delayed by up to one year.
Life Science/Medical Electives

The BME program requires one Life Science/Medical Elective as part of the PhD program. The purpose of the Life Science/Medical Elective is to formally provide the opportunity for students to gain the depth in a biological or medical field that augments their dissertation research. As such, students should take their Life Science/Medical elective after they have selected a laboratory and a dissertation subject.

The following courses may count as a Life Science/Medical Elective. Note that these courses may be offered only every alternate year.*

16:125:582  NANO-AND MICRO-ENGINEERED BIOINTERFACES
16:125:583  BIOINTERFACEAL CHARACTERIZATION
16:125:584  INTEGRATIVE MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOENGINEERING
16:115:511  MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY
16:148:514  MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF CELLS
16:148:519  CELLULAR AND GENETIC MECHANISMS
16:148:550  ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
16:148:556  SYSTEMS HISTOLOGY
16:148:565  GROSS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY
16:160:537  BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I
16:340:510  NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY
16:681:502  MOLECULAR GENETICS
16:681:530  INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR MEDICINE
16:681:555  MOLECULAR VIROLOGY
16:681:585  CANCER MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
16:761:515  MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY

*Other courses not listed *may* be acceptable with PRIOR approval from the Graduate Director.
Masters Thesis Guidelines

Procedures for Filing for a Master's degree:
An application for Admission to Candidacy must be completed by all Master’s students, listing courses that will be applied toward the Master’s degree. The application can be picked up from the program assistant in BME-111. For M.S., the student is required to list at least 27 course credits and 6 research credits, for M.Eng, 30 course credits and 3 non-thesis study credits. The Graduate Program Director must approve any course not in the curriculum that will be used to satisfy the degree requirements. This includes any courses that can be transferred from a previous institution. Prior to the Master's thesis defense, the student should confirm with the BME Graduate Program Administrator that all requirements are satisfied. Application for Diploma must also be filled out during the semester of intended graduation. That form can be picked up from BME-111 or filled out online at: https://www.ugadmissions.rutgers.edu/Diploma.

Selection of M.S. Thesis and M.Eng Non-Thesis Advisor and Committee:
The M.S. and M.Eng committee consists of at least three members: the thesis/non-thesis advisor and two members of the graduate faculty. No outside member is required for the masters committee. Additional members are permitted. The student should choose committee members who can help the student either in the research topic or in his or her future career. For example, a student interested in clinical research could benefit from a member of the Medical School; likewise a student interested in industry may want to include committee members with industrial contacts. Students should confirm the committee composition with the Graduate Program before the defense or final presentation.

Master’s Comprehensive Examination
For either M.S. or M.Eng Master's degrees, the student must pass a comprehensive examination. This examination consists of a presentation of a thesis (M.S.) or a report (M.Eng) and an oral examination on the research by the three committee members. 2 weeks prior to the oral exam (thesis defense), the student MUST submit to the program administrator: Title, location, committee members and abstract. The student is expected to send their thesis and/or presentation slides to their committees at least 2 weeks in advance of the defense date.

The candidate’s thesis advisor and committee must agree unanimously. Students submitting a thesis must follow the required format defined in the Graduate School’s Thesis and Dissertation Style Guide, and must meet all deadlines prescribed by the Graduate School.

Final approval for the Masters degree must come from the Graduate Director, verifying that the candidate has satisfied all program requirements for the degree, including coursework, research, and the completed and signed M.S. comprehensive examination. The student must upload his/her thesis (final with any revisions as a result of the Defense) to the BME Sakai Text Submission site at least one week prior to any deadline. Larry Stromberg would give you access to the Sakai site if you do not have it. The information about this process is on the Sakai site. Once the thesis is checked and the report generated, the Graduate Director will review the report for plagiarism and if ok, will sign the candidacy form and the student will then submit the form and the thesis abstract to the Graduate School-New Brunswick at 25 Bishop Place on College Avenue Campus. The thesis is submitted electronically here: https://etd.libraries.rutgers.edu/login.php. Checklist for degree completion is on the BME website in the Graduate Program Section here: http://soe.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/imce/Degree.pdf
Doctoral Dissertation Guidelines

General Dissertation Information

The doctoral dissertation topic may be chosen in virtually any research area at the interface of physical science/engineering and the biomedical sciences. Students are encouraged to begin research activities early in their graduate career (generally in the second semester of their first year); research work towards the thesis may be done on campus, at teaching hospitals or at other research sites (for example, in one of our associated industrial or clinical research laboratories). The Program encourages students to explore areas that are relevant to clinical medicine, but this is not an absolute requirement. The candidate pursues the thesis under the direction of a research supervisor and is guided by a thesis committee.

Laboratory Rotations

To facilitate the advisor selection process, new graduate students have the option of rotating through available laboratories. These rotations typically last for one month and can start as soon as a student is accepted into the program. Laboratory rotations must be arranged by the student in consultation with the laboratory director. The Graduate Program Director or knowledgeable faculty can direct the student to laboratories accepting rotations.

The Dissertation Committee: Composition and Function

Dissertation Committee: Doctoral dissertation work is performed under the guidance of a dissertation committee consisting of at least four faculty members (including a chair/supervisor) who will help guide the research and act as readers of the thesis. At least three of the committee members should represent the disciplines of engineering and science that are relevant to the student's proposed research. These three members must be affiliated with the BME Graduate Faculty. The list of acceptable faculty members can be found on page 28. A final committee member from outside of the department, the fourth member, is included to broaden the student’s perspective. This outside member must be approved by the BME Graduate Director and the Graduate School for the final dissertation defense. The dissertation committee should be formed early in the course of the research and in no case later than six weeks prior to the dissertation proposal date. The BME Graduate Director must approve the composition of the dissertation committee. This should be done before the thesis proposal. The student should choose committee members who can help the student either in the research topic or in his or her future career. For example, a student interested in clinical research could benefit from a member of the Medical School; likewise a student interested in industry may want to include committee members with industrial contacts.

Dissertation Chair: A chair, who must be a full member of the graduate faculty, heads each dissertation committee. The role of the chair is to ensure that all policies and procedures of the thesis committee are followed correctly, and particularly that dissertation committee meetings are scheduled each year.
**Dissertation Research Supervisor:** The research supervisor from the BME graduate faculty is ordinarily a faculty member of Rutgers or the Medical School. A senior research staff member may act as the dissertation supervisor with special permission by the BME Graduate Program Director (examples of thesis committee composition are found later in this booklet). The research supervisor may also be, but need not be, the chair of the committee.

**Dissertation Proposal and Proposal Defense**

**The proposal:** Each candidate writes a dissertation proposal that must be approved by his/her committee before the end of the fall semester of the third year. The proposal should reflect the guidance of the dissertation committee. The proposal should contain sufficient detail to clearly define the research problem, describe the proposed research plan, and defend the significance of the work. Preliminary results are expected. The suggested length excluding figures, tables, and references is 25 pages.

**Format of the proposal:**
- The proposal with properly formatted title page signed by the student;
- An abstract of the proposal (suggested length 300 words) that serves as a concise description of the proposed work and can be read independently of the full proposal. The BME Dissertation Tracking Committee will use the abstract when reviewing the proposal for final approval. The abstract should be comprehensible to a general scientific audience, yet should contain sufficient information for evaluation of the project. The components of the abstract are 1) a brief description of the project background and significance, explaining why the work is important; 2) the specific aims of the proposal; and 3) a summary of the methods to be used to accomplish the specific aims. Headings within the abstract (Background, Specific Aims, and Methods) are optional.

**Proposal Defense:** The student obtains the candidacy form from the BME graduate program office and fills out the requested information. The student must formally defend the written dissertation proposal before the full dissertation committee. The proposal title, date, abstract and committee members MUST be submitted to the Graduate Program Assistant, Larry Stromberg, in BME-111 two weeks before the proposal defense. After the defense, the student corrects deficiencies in the proposal identified by the committee, and the committee then reviews the amended proposal. When the committee deems the proposal acceptable, the final proposal is uploaded to the BME Sakai Text Submission where it will be checked for plagiarism. The student will have access to the Sakai site and the site will explain the process more in-depth. After the report is generated, the GPD checks the document and if ok, signs off on Part I of the candidacy form. The student is responsible for obtaining the required signatures from the dissertation committee at the time of the defense or shortly thereafter. After the committee and GPD have signed Part I of the candidacy form, it must then be submitted by hand to the Graduate School-New Brunswick, 25 Bishop Place, College Avenue Campus.
Dissertation Committee Meetings and Reports

While the student should freely seek the advice and counsel of thesis committee members on an individual basis, periodic thesis committee meetings must be held to review progress and guide the ongoing research. These meetings must occur at least once per year; typically, students will receive weekly or bi-weekly feedback from committee members engaged in the ongoing research. An Annual Research Verification form must be submitted to the graduate program office by August 15th of each year. New incoming PhD students have until August 15th of the SECOND year to submit this form. More information is on the following page.

Dissertation Defense: When the written dissertation is substantially complete and acceptable to the dissertation committee, a public dissertation defense will be scheduled at which the student presents his/her work to the dissertation committee and other members of the Rutgers community. The student must submit his/her information to the Graduate Administrator about their defense information 2-3 weeks prior to the defense date. Through the defense, the dissertation committee judges the adequacy of the dissertation research. Formally, the candidate meets with the dissertation committee privately following a public question period. During this private meeting, the committee may perform an oral examination or may request additional materials. The committee will then adjourn for a discussion of the candidate’s performance, after which it will agree by majority vote that the candidate has (a) successfully defended the work, (b) needs to perform specified additional work by a defined date, or (c) has not adequately defended the work. Graduate School regulations apply in all of these cases.

Once the dissertation is satisfactorily defended, the final written dissertation document (signed by the dissertation supervisor) is uploaded to the BME Sakai Text Submission site just as was done for the written Proposal. After the dissertation is checked, the GPD will then sign Part II of the candidacy form. The title page of the dissertation must be signed by the entire dissertation committee. After the the Graduate Director signs the candidacy form, the student submits the form and 3 copies of the thesis abstract to the Graduate School-New Brunswick at 25 Bishop Place on College Avenue Campus. The thesis is submitted electronically here: https://etd.libraries.rutgers.edu/login.php

Procedures:

In summary, procedures for a dissertation defense are as follows:

- The dissertation committee, working with the student and reviewing dissertation drafts, concludes at some point before the end of the 6th or 7th year of study that the doctoral work is complete;
- The student requests that an “Outside Committee Member” letter be prepared by the Graduate Program Assistant with approval from the Graduate Director. This is for the 4th committee member.
- A complete final draft of the dissertation document is due to the dissertation committee no less than two weeks prior to the dissertation defense to allow the committee time to review;
- A dissertation defense is held to which the public is invited. The Graduate Program Administrator will assist the student by making a flyer and announcing the date of the dissertation via e-mail;
- Immediately following the public dissertation presentation, the student and committee members have a follow-up discussion in which additional questions can be explored at the discretion of the faculty;
- The dissertation committee meets in executive session to decide whether the thesis defense was satisfactory. Additions or editorial changes to the thesis document may be suggested to the student by the committee at this point;
- The student makes final corrections on the written dissertation and follows the guidelines set by the BME Graduate program to upload to Sakai for checking and the Graduate School regarding the timely submission of all forms, the collection of signatures on the candidacy form and title page and the submission of all dissertation materials, as outlined in the Dissertation Style Guide.
Annual Research Progress

Timely progression to completion of the Ph.D. is a goal of all students and faculty within Biomedical Engineering. A reasonable goal is for the Ph.D. to be completed within five years; however the rules of the Graduate School of New Brunswick allow a maximum of seven years. In order to promote timely progression, effective January 3, 2008, the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program requires that the progress of all Ph.D. candidates be reviewed annually, so that students and their research mentors will have adequate feedback to assist them in making progress towards degree completion. This will be done through a required annual meeting with the student and her/his committee. The meeting involves having an Annual Research Verification form signed and returned to the Graduate Program Office in BME*. This completed and signed form will be due for submission to the office on or about August 15th of each year following the first year. If the form is not submitted to the office by this date, the student's registration in subsequent semesters will be put on hold. The form is on the following page.

Students are required to form their research advisory committees by the end of the spring semester of the 2nd year. The Qualifier (and committee) satisfies the annual meeting for the first year. The advisory committee can be equivalent to or slightly different from the PhD thesis committee. The advisory committee should consist of the thesis advisor; two other faculty of the BME graduate program; and an “outside” member (not a faculty of BME graduate program. The outside member can be from an outside institution or organization.

The intended format of the meeting is for the student to present:
• An overview of her/his thesis project;
• Progress since the last Research Advisory Committee meeting;
• Proposed work for the next one-year period;
• An evaluation of the student's progress and prospects is to be written on the Annual Research Verification form by the Chair of the Committee immediately following the meeting and distributed to the student, committee members, the director of the student’s Graduate Program with all required signatures.

*A thesis proposal form can be substituted for the verification form if the student has successfully defended his/her thesis proposal no more than six months prior to the August deadline, or if the student has scheduled her/his thesis proposal defense within four months after the August deadline.
Joint Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering

ANNUAL RESEARCH VERIFICATION FORM
(To be completed by student’s advisor and committee. Must be submitted to BME Graduate Program Office by Aug 15 of each year)

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date Entered BME Program: ____________

Proposal/Dissertation Title: ____________________________________________________________

Date of Research Committee Meeting: ________________ Publications so far (if any): ____________

Progress of Dissertation Research:

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory (Please give detailed description of inadequacies below and notify GPD ASAP)

Comments and Recommendations for the Student for the following year from date of meeting:

Please consider the student’s progress and goals in research, writing, and presenting their research in your comments and recommendations. THIS SECTION MUST BE FILLED IN

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Committee:
Name (please print)             Signature             Concur             Dissent

Advisor

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

_________________________  __________________________   _______  ______

Student Signature

Anticipated Proposal OR Defense Date

Graduate Program Director Signature
# MAKEUP OF THESIS COMMITTEES

## EXAMPLE #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Chair</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: BME Professor</td>
<td>GSNB or GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Research Supervisor</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: Hospital-based MD</td>
<td>GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reader #1</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: Engineering Professor</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reader #2</td>
<td>Approved Outside Member*</td>
<td>As Desired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EXAMPLE #2

<table>
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<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Chair/Research Supervisor</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: BME Professor</td>
<td>GSNB or GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Reader #1</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: Engineering Professor</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reader #2</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: MD faculty member</td>
<td>GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reader #3</td>
<td>Approved Outside Member*</td>
<td>As Desired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EXAMPLE #3

<table>
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<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Chair</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: BME Professor</td>
<td>GSNB or GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Research Supervisor</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: Cell Biology Professor</td>
<td>GSNB or GSBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reader #1</td>
<td>BME Graduate Faculty: Engineering Professor</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reader #2</td>
<td>Approved Outside Member*</td>
<td>As Desired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Graduate School requires an “Outside Member Letter”, obtained from the Graduate Program Administrator.
Appendix

Core Course Descriptions

16:125:561 BioImaging Methods (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
The course will present the general physical principles underlying resolution and contrast in two-dimensional and three-dimensional bioimaging techniques. The course will focus on current key areas of imaging and their applications in biology and medicine. These include optical imaging, MRI, Ultrasound, CT and ultra-high-resolution microscopic methods. The course presentation will be comprised of lecture material, representative problems, and paper discussions. The students will be evaluated through team projects/presentations, and quizzes.

16:125:571 Biosignal Processing (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
Application of basic signal analysis to biological signals and the analysis of medical image. Extensive use of the MATLAB language in example and problems.

16:125:572 Biocontrol, Modeling, and Computation (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
Application of control theory to the analysis of biological systems. As foundation for other biomedical engineering courses, topics include (biocontrol) control systems principles, Nyquist and root locus stability analysis; (modeling) Nernst membrane model, action potential, cardiovascular mechanics, circulatory dynamics, pulmonary mechanics, accommodation, vergence eye movements, and saccades; and (computation) numerical solutions to differential equations, computer methods using Matlab and Simulink.

16:125:573 Kinetics, Thermodynamics, and Transport in Biomedicine (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
Intended for those seeking familiarity with the effects of, and tools to deal with, fluid, multiphase, chemical, and thermal transport and kinetics problems in biological systems.

16:125:574 Biomechanics and Biomaterials (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing
The objective of the course is to understand the principles that underlay complex, graduate level problems in continuum mechanics, with an emphasis on material that can be applied to graduate level problems in biomechanics.

16:125:501 BME Math Modeling
Prerequisites: Multivariate calculus and ordinary differential equations; basic programming in Matlab or consent of instructor.
Mathematical tools and computational skills necessary to model and solve problems in the core BME graduate curriculum.

16:125:581 Mammalian Physiology (Online and as needed)
Prerequisites: undergraduate physiology and general biology
This advanced physiology course is organized around integrative issues, i.e., focus is on the physiological parameter to be controlled and to show how the different systems (nervous, endocrine, respiratory, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal) contribute to homeostasis of a particular parameter.

16:125:586 Structure and Dynamics in Adult Stem Cell Biology
This course is designed to present basic information as well as the most recent developments in key areas of cell biology. The course consists of lectures based primarily on textbook readings and discussions that delve more deeply into lecture material and discuss primary literature. Both formats will expose students to current experimental approaches in cell biology with an emphasis on quantitative methods and analysis. Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of course material by participation in discussions, in presentations, and by examination.
Developmental Courses and Descriptions

16:125:601  Engineering Ethics and Seminar (1)
Each Fall semester all students are expected to attend the Seminar Series. First year students are required to take this course which coincides with the Seminar Series in BME. Every other week, students will have a discussion about ethics in engineering and medicine. On the alternating weeks, students will hear speakers from within and outside the Rutgers/RWJ community present their research results.

16:125:602  Engineering Writing and Seminar (1)
Each Spring semester all students are expected to attend the Seminar Series. Every other week, students will learn how to successfully write a “white paper” on subjects in BME. On the alternating weeks, students will hear speakers from within and outside the Rutgers/RWJ community present their research results.

16:125:607,608  Preparing Future Faculty I,II (1,1)
During the second year of studies, all Ph.D. candidates will take two one-credit courses over the span of the year. These course cover basic concepts in teaching and learning. Students will be exposed to different styles of learning and teaching methods and their application to Biomedical Engineering. Students will be expected to apply the principles to laboratories and lectures in the undergraduate program.

16:125:628  Clinical Practicum (1)
Students are introduced to clinical aspects of biomedical engineering by attending regular grand rounds given by clinical specialists from medical schools and hospitals. Selected demonstrations of clinical procedures with applications of modern technology are also arranged.

16:115:556  Ethical Scientific Conduct (1)
Introduction to ethical issues of scientific investigation, including intellectual property, plagiarism, conflict of interest, human and animal subjects, record keeping, etc. Intended for Ph.D. candidates in the biomedical sciences.

Other Graduate Course Electives* (offered in BME)

16:125:582  NANO-AND MICRO-ENGINEERED BIOINTERFACES (3)
Prerequisites: Background in undergraduate chemistry, general biology, physics, and interest in integrative studies of biological interfaces. Students concerned about their preparation should contact the instructor.
This course introduces students to the methods and mechanisms for engineering interfaces on the nano- and micro-scale. Two approaches to engineering interfaces, generally classified as synthesis and fabrication, specifically include: i) preparing substrates that have nano- and/or micro-scale features; and ii) creating nano and/or micro-scale substrates. The substrate materials discussed will typically consist of ceramics, polymers, and metals whereas biological systems will comprise cells, genes and ligands.

16:125:583  BIOINTERFACE CHARACTERIZATION (3)
Prerequisites: Background in undergraduate chemistry, general biology, physics, and interest in integrative studies of biological interfaces. Students concerned about their preparation should contact the instructor for guidance.
This course will introduce students to various physical, chemical, and biological methods of characterizing biointerfaces, broadly defined. Biointerfaces will include conventional interfaces of biomolecules (e.g., proteins) on artificial substrates, as well as interfaces of submicroscopic and nanoscale particles with biomolecules and cells.

16:125:584  INTEGRATIVE MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOENGINEERING (3)
Prerequisites: Some background in biochemistry, molecular biology, thermodynamics and kinetics. Students concerned about their preparation should contact the instructor.
This course provides an integration of engineering and mathematical principles with molecular and cell biology entities for the understanding of physiology and solution of medical problems.

* These electives can also be used to as the life sciences elective requirement. Check with graduate program about the schedule; note that these courses may be offered during alternate years.
Elective Courses and Descriptions*

*List is subject to change

16:125:506  ARTIFICIAL IMPLANTS
This course presents basic concepts concerning structure and properties of materials used to replace soft and hard biological tissues. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the physical properties of the tissue to be replaced through development of structure-property relationships. Properties to be discussed include phase transitions, mechanical and hydrodynamic properties. A brief introduction will be given to processes used for form biomaterials as well as biocompatibility criteria for skin, tendon, bone, cardiovascular and other applications.

16:125:509  MEDICAL DEVICE DEVELOPMENT
This course details the development of medical devices that employ primarily polymeric materials in their construction. Course work will include concepts involving materials selection, feasibility studies, prototype fabrication, functionality testing, prototype final selection, biocompatibility considerations, efficacy testing, sterilization validation, FDA regulatory approaches, writing of IDE, 510(k) and PMAs, device production and record keeping. Examples used include materials for cardiovascular stents and for non-invasive measurements of tissue mechanical properties. For 2010 we will have discuss the development of cartilage substitutes. Several former graduates in BME from Rutgers will give lectures on industrial aspects of medical device development.

16:125:546  MODELING OF BME SYSTEMS
This course is intended to introduce senior undergraduate-level BME students to tools and applications of chaos and pattern formation in biological systems.

16:125:550  CURRENT TRENDS IN NEURAL ENGINEERING
The goal of the course is to discuss current progress in the interdisciplinary field of neural engineering where neuroscientists, neurobiologists, and engineers collaborate to bridge the gap between neuroscience and engineering. Neural engineering encompasses basic and applied research at the molecular, cellular and systems levels and can include experimental, computational, theoretical, clinical, and applied studies.

16:125:564  ADVANCED MICROSCOPY LAB
Laboratory-based course. Quantitative and hands-on microscopy course with emphasis on the theory of image formation, mechanisms of optical contrast generation, and engineering design of state-of-the-art microscopic instrumentation.

16:125:565  APPLIED CLINICAL ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY
This course provides the theoretical basis and applied design principles for medical devices and instrumentation that interact with electrically excitable tissues of the body.

16:125:568  COMPUTER INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS IN MEDICINE
This course focuses on computer-based techniques, systems, and applications exploiting quantitative information from medical images and sensors to assist clinicians in all phases of treatment, from diagnosis to preoperative planning, execution, and follow-up. It emphasizes the relationship between problem definition, computer-based technology, and clinical application.

16:125:575  BIOENGINEERING IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES: FUNDAMENTAL AND REAL WORLD PERSPECTIVES
The goal of this course is to offer students insight into the practical aspects of industrial bioprocessing. Industrial practitioners from various fields of expertise provide lectures and facilitate discussions highlighting problems and issues that engineers and scientists encounter. This course provides students with exposure to topics which are beyond the scope of a purely theoretically-structured course. After taking course, students should have a better understanding of the challenges that engineers and scientists face in industrial bioprocessing.

16:125:584  INTEGRATIVE MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOENGINEERING
This course is an elective offered through the Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering. Research in this field is increasingly at the molecular and cellular level, and this course will provide a much-needed foundation for training students in the integration of engineering and mathematical principles with biological entities for the understanding of physiology and solution of medical problems. The course will also be of interest to students in other engineering and life science programs.

16:125:587  STEM CELL TOOLBOX

16:125:589  BioMEMS
The objectives of this course are to build basic foundation for understanding of mechanisms on electrical, mechanical, chemical, and optical transducers in the context of biomedical applications. To teach critical thinking considering microengineering design and fabrication, material compatibility with biological systems, and cellular interaction at the interface. Finally current MEMS activities will be reviewed with emphasis on the examination of the viability of nanoscale devices and bioMEMS technology in particular biomedical applications such as capillary electrophoresis and miniaturized polymerase chain reaction for biochips, and exploration of integrated microdevices for minimally invasive surgery, personalized medicine and drug delivery.
16:125:590  DRUG DELIVERY FUNDAMENTALS AND APPLICATIONS
This course will discuss the engineering of novel pharmaceutical delivery systems with enhanced efficacy and safety profiles, with an emphasis on the design and application of materials that overcome drug delivery barriers or challenges.

16:125:615  ADVANCED TOPICS IN BRAIN RESEARCH
Advanced study of current areas of brain research. Topics include information processing in the brain, pattern recognition in different sensory modalities, advanced techniques of diagnosing different system disorders, and data recording and techniques of analysis. Topics vary depending on student interest and faculty availability.

16:125:618  INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
The course arms the student with the knowledge and perspective needed to evaluate their research for commercial application, to legally protect their innovation, to seek financial resources for venture monetization, to market and present their ideas to interested parties, and to document their venture details within a business plan. With innovation case studies focused upon engineering in the life and physical sciences, and team-based projects to develop feasibility and business plans, the student can easily bridge the current graduate curriculum, focused upon engineering and science, to its natural and successful application in the business world.

16:148:519  CELLULAR AND GENETIC MECHANISMS
Beginning with a consideration of basic cellular constituents and cell and tissue types, this course reviews cellular processes in the cytoplasm, cell and organelar membranes and the nucleus. Uses of recombinant DNA technology in investigating gene structure and function and in diagnosing genetic diseases complement examination of inheritance patterns in humans and review of genetic loci that underlie human disease.

16:148:530  HUMAN GENETICS
Examination of molecular and chromosomal bases for human inherited diseases. Molecular approaches to gene identification, including position cloning and linkage analysis. Role of mutations, evaluation of repetitive sequences in the human genome.

16:148:550  ADVANCED DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
Molecular mechanisms of cell type differentiation and body part specification. Cell-cell interaction, signal transduction during development, morphogenetic gradients, pattern formation, focusing on three experimental organisms: the nematode C. elegans, Drosophila, and the mouse. Genetic experimental approaches will be emphasized.

16:148:556  SYSTEMS HISTOLOGY
Analysis of the microscopic structure of the cells making up the tissues and organs of the body provides a foundational knowledge for future studies in the area of histopathology. In addition to normal histological structure, the course exposes students to relevant histopathologies, which illustrate changes in normal architecture produced by diseases.

16:148:565  GROSS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY
Study of macroscopic structure of the human body by dissection and other methods with reference to functional mechanisms and changes during development and clinical correlations.

16:150:532  KINETICS OF MATERIALS SYSTEMS

16:155:501  ADVANCED TRANSPORT PHENOMENA I
Momentum transport processes in laminar and turbulent flow systems. Development and application of steady and unsteady boundary layer processes including growth, similitude principles, and separation. Potential flow theory coupled with viscous dissipation at boundaries. Momentum transport in fixed and fluid bed exchangers and reactors.

16:155:502  ADVANCED TRANSPORT PHENOMENA II
Energy balances derived from first and second law approaches to open systems, with reaction. Conduction in fluids and solids, both steady and unsteady examples. Convection in laminar and turbulent flow systems. Diffusion and its treatment in stagnant and flowing media. Two phase systems, coupled reaction and mass transfer. Interphase transport.

16:155:514  KINETICS, CATALYSIS, AND REACTOR DESIGN
Principles of applied chemical kinetics, reaction mechanisms and rate laws, and engineering design of reactor vessels. Applications to homogeneous and heterogeneous process reaction systems with internal, transphase, and external mass transfer. Noncatalytic gas-solid reaction and gas-liquid absorption with reaction. Micromixing and macromixing in reactor systems.

16:155:531  BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Integration of the principles of chemical engineering, biochemistry, and microbiology. Development and application of biochemical engineering principles. Analysis of biochemical and microbial reactions.

16:155:541  PHARMACEUTICAL MATERIALS ENGINEERING
Introduction to pharmaceutical materials and its application to designing and manufacturing drug products. Focus is on materials encountered in the pharmaceutical industry and how the materials affect processes they are used in. The course focuses on the choice of materials, troubleshooting and optimization.

16:155:544  PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANIC NANOTECHNOLOGY
This course will discuss the engineering of novel pharmaceutical delivery systems with enhanced efficacy and safety profiles, particularly those that involve the use of nanostructured materials. Topics will include drug delivery fundamentals and membrane transport, nanoparticles for drug delivery, applications and case studies.
POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING I
Physical and chemical structure of polymers; morphology of polymer crystals; microscopic texture. Mechanical properties; influence of orientation; effects of temperature and environment; engineering applications.

POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING II
Emphasis on a modern treatment of polymers, including statistical mechanics scaling concepts and polymer properties and characterization.

SPECIAL TOPICS: FUNDAMENTALS OF NANOSCALE THERMODYNAMICS
Covers the theoretical and multiscale simulation methods which bridge macroscopic thermodynamics and continuum transport theories with atomistic quantum mechanics and molecular dynamics

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY OF HIGH POLYMERS
This course is an introduction to the chemistry and materials properties of high polymers. The underlying rationale of this course is to provide chemists as well as chemical and biomedical engineers a sound understanding of the key principles that differentiate polymers as unique materials.

BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I

COMPUTATIONAL THINK
Intended for students who have not had undergraduate preparation in the subject. May not be taken for credit toward a graduate degree in computer science. Models of computation and complexity. Sorting, stacks, queues, linked lists, trees, search trees, hashing, heaps, graphs, and graph algorithms.

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS
Derivation, analysis, and application of methods used to solve numerical problems with computers; solution of equations by iteration, approximation of functions, differentiation and quadrature, differential equations, linear equations and matrices, least squares.

INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Overview of artificial intelligence. Basic problems and methods; deductive inference, declarative programming, heuristic search; reasoning and representation in perception, planning, and learning.

PATTERN RECOGNITION THEORY AND APPLICATIONS
Pattern recognition as an inductive process, statistical classification, parametric and nonparametric methods, adaptive methods, error estimation, applications in image processing, character, speech recognition, and diagnostic decision making.

TOPICS IN COMPUTERS IN BIOMEDICINE
A survey of computational methods in biology or medicine; topics vary from instructor to instructor and may include computational molecular biology, medical reasoning, and imaging.

DIGITAL SIGNALS AND FILTERS
Sampling and quantization of analog signals; z-transforms; digital filter structures and hardware realizations; digital filter design methods; DFT and FFT methods and their application to fast convolution and spectrum estimation; introduction to discrete-time random signals.

DIGITAL SPEECH PROCESSING
Acoustics of speech generation; perceptual criteria for digital representation of audio signals; signal processing methods for speech analysis; waveform coders; vocoders; linear prediction; differential coders (DPCM, delta modulation); speech synthesis; automatic speech recognition; voice-interactive information systems.

SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES I
Charge transport, diffusion and drift current, injection, lifetime, recombination, and generation processes, p-n junction devices, transient behavior, FET's, I-V, and frequency characteristics, MOS devices C-V, C-f, and I-V characteristics, operation of bipolar transistors.

SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES II
Review of microwave devices, O- and M-type devices, microwave diodes, Gunn, IMPATT, TRAPATT, etc., scattering parameters and microwave amplifiers, heterostructures and III-V compound-based BJTs and FETs.

OPTOELECTRONICS I
Principles of laser action, efficiency, CW and pulse operation, mode locking, output coupling, equivalent circuits, gaseous and molecular lasers, solid-state lasers, single and double heterojunction lasers, different geometrics, fabrication, degradation, and application to holography, communication, medicine, and fusion.

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS
Ideas and techniques of numerical analysis illustrated by problems in the approximation of functions, numerical solution of linear and nonlinear systems of equations, approximation of matrix eigen-values and eigenvectors, numerical quadrature, and numerical solution of ordinary differential equations.

ROBOTICS AND MECHATRONICS
Introduction to robotics, including mechanisms and control theories as well as applications; manipulator mechanics; design considerations; control fundamentals; adaptive and sensory controls; algorithm development; robotic assembly techniques.
16:650:518  **BIOMECHANICAL SYSTEMS**
Selected topics from the study of the human body as a mechanical system, with emphasis on modeling, analysis, and design. Investigation of biomechanical systems frequently encountered in orthopedic surgery and physical rehabilitation.

16:650:606  **MICROFLUIDIC AND NANOFLUIDIC SYSTEMS**
Understand the major categories, tools, components and applications of microfluidic and nanofluidic systems. Microfabrication, physicochemical description of hydrodynamics, low Reynolds number flows and other phenomena will be discussed.

16:681:502  **MOLECULAR GENETICS**
Prokaryotic and eukaryotic molecular genetics. Bacteria, bacterio-phage, yeast, Drosophila, and mammals.

16:681:530  **INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR MEDICINE**
Application of molecular and cell biology to a wide variety of human diseases; recent advances in understanding basic mechanisms.

16:681:543  **CURRENT CONCEPTS OF IMMUNOLOGY**
Cellular basis of immunology; analysis, activation, and function of lymphoid cells; regulatory mechanisms, relevance to tumor and transplantation immunity.

16:681:555  **MOLECULAR ViroLOGY**
Detailed consideration of fundamental physical-chemical properties, schemes of classification, genetics, and modes of replication of selected animal viruses.

16:681:585  **CANCER MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

16:761:513  **CARDIOVASCULAR PHYSIOLOGY**
Comprehensive study of the cardiovascular system in mammals. Special consideration given to coronary circulation, myocardial-oxygen consumption, and cardiac arrhythmias.

16:761:515  **MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY**
Study of human physiology from the molecular to the systems level. Emphasis is on the integration of the systems within the healthy individual. Teaching modalities include lectures, small discussion groups, and laboratories in pulmonary and cardiovascular physiology.

16:960:584  **BIOSTATISTICS I**
Statistical techniques for biomedical data. Analysis of observational studies emphasized. Topics include measures of disease frequency and association; inferences for dichotomous and grouped case-control data; logistic regression for identification of risk factors; Poisson models for grouped data; Cox model for continuous data; life table analysis; and SAS used in analysis of data.

16:960:585  **BIOSTATISTICS II**
Statistical techniques used in design and analysis of controlled clinical experiments. Topics include introduction to four phases of clinical trials; randomization, blocking, stratification, balancing, power, and sample-size calculation; data monitoring and interim analyses; baseline covariate adjustment; crossover trials; brief introduction to categorical and event-time data; and SAS used in analysis of data.

16:960:590  **DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS**
Fundamental principles of experimental design; completely randomized variance component designs; randomized blocks; Latin squares; incomplete blocks; partially hierarchic mixed-model experiments; factorial experiments; fractional factorials; and response surface exploration.

*Other electives may be used for graduate credit upon approval from the BME Graduate Program Director. The student should send the course description and/or syllabus to the GPD and the BME Program Administrator for review PRIOR to registering for the course.*
Industrial Interactions

Rutgers is located in central New Jersey, which is the worldwide epicenter of pharmaceutical and biotechnology research, and has been termed “the Medicine Chest of the World”. In 2005 more than half of the new drugs approved by the FDA were produced in New Jersey. The proximity of Rutgers to a rich variety of pharmaceutical, medical device, biotechnology and affiliated industries uniquely positions the Department of Biomedical Engineering to train students who are expertly prepared for dynamic careers in numerous areas at the forefront of modern Science and Engineering.

To facilitate the transition from the university to the workplace, the Department has dedicated several custom-designed programs to strengthen existing ties to local industry while at the same time forging new relationships, both of which will translate into invaluable opportunities for BME students.

**Industrial Seminar Series**
Leading members of the industrial community are invited to speak to students about real-life experiences in industry during the fall and spring seminar series. Students are encouraged to meet with the speakers for more informal and in-depth discussions.

**Annual Senior Design Conference**
Each year, the undergraduate BME Seniors present their final research projects at the Annual Senior Design Conference. At this conference, there are student mentors who are often from industry that had time involved with preparing undergraduate students with career and scientific exposure.

**Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting**
Each fall, the annual BMES Meeting is held in various locations in the nation. Graduate students, undergraduate students, and faculty are urged to present their research at the annual meeting. The annual meetings have a central theme each year and the goal is to foster interactions between universities with BME programs, and industry. Students are encouraged to network, and those engaged in research projects present posters at the event. Please contact the BME Graduate Program for more information on BMES or visit their website here: [http://bmes.org/annualmeeting](http://bmes.org/annualmeeting)
Ph.D. Qualifier Proposal Format

The proposal shall be no more than 10 pages (Specific Aims, Research Strategy), plus 2 pages for references, and must obey NIH guidelines for font size (11 Arial or Helvetica or Georgia), margins (0.5 inch minimum on all sides), line spacing (single) and type density (15 characters per inch maximum) and page layout (8.5” by 11”). Suggested sections for the proposal will be:

SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page maximum)
State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

RESEARCH STRATEGY (9 pages maximum)
Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – (a) Background and Significance (2 pages suggested), (b) Innovation (1 page suggested), (c) Approach (6 pages suggested). Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide at the end a Bibliography and References Cited section (2 additional pages permitted).
(a) Background and Significance
• Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
• Summarize the scientific background of the field relevant to the proposed problem.
• Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
• Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
(b) Innovation
• Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
• Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
• Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
(c) Approach (Can be broken down into different sub-sections for each Specific Aim, for example, C1, C2, etc)
• Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
• Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

The panel will evaluate the proposal and presentation based on the following guidelines. Each guideline will be assigned 1-5 points, a score of 5 being best. A total score of 18 out of 25 is passing, and lower scores may be deemed conditional by the committee. The committee will take into account mitigating factors particular to each student’s case in deciding whether to grant a conditional pass – for example a student whose qualifier lacks statistical metrics may be required to take a course on statistics and obtain a grade of B or better within a year, or a student who exhibits another shortcoming
may be given a different remedial course or assignment. The committee is traditionally sensitive to extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness, need for additional training, etc.) and will assign conditions for passing in consultation with the Qualifier director or Graduate Program Director.

Creativity, thoughtfulness of proposal
Hypothesis Based Scientific Design of Experiments
Feasibility and logic of approach
Thoroughness of literature
Clarity of presentation
### BME Graduate Faculty

#### BME Department Faculty
- Y. Androulakis
- F. Berthiaume
- N. Boustany
- H. Buettner
- L. Cai
- W. Craelius
- G. Drzewiecki
- J. Freeman
- A. Gormley (Arriving Spring 2017)
- I. Hacihaliloglu
- N. Langrana
- J. Li
- T. Maguire
- A. Mann
- P. Moghe
- R. Olabisi
- T. Papathomas
- B. Parekkadan (Arriving Spring 2017)
- M. Pierce
- C. Roth
- R. Schloss
- T. Shinbrot
- G. Shoane
- D. Shreiber
- S. Sofou
- J. Sy
- M. Yarmush
- J. Zahn

#### GSNB Faculty
- H. Berman
- D. Denhardt
- R. Ebright
- B. Firestein
- M. Grumet
- J. Kohn
- H. Kaplan
- S. Khare
- E. Kowler
- C. Kulikowski
- K. Lee
- S.H. Lee
- B. Michniak-Kohn
- S. Murthy
- W. Olson
- M. Plummer
- P. Sinko
- J. Tischfield
- E. Torres
- K. Uhrich
- W. Young

#### GSBS Faculty
- G. Atlas
- S. Danish
- M. Dunn
- D. Foran
- R. Foty
- S. Ganesan
- C. Gatt
- M. Gartenberg
- P. Georgopoulos
- J. Glod
- R. Lehman
- M. Lewis
- J. Ma
- V. Nanda
- J. Neubauer
- D. Sant’Angelo
- F. Silver
- H. Weiss
- L. Yang

#### Industry
- K. Alam
- H. Alexander
- C. Caicedo
- L. Marks
- K. Ricci
- C. Glass

#### Engineering Faculty
- G. Amatucci
- J. Bernstein
- G. Burdea
- Z. Guo
- M. Ierapetritou
- M. Javanmard
- J. Khinast
- D. Knight
- K. Li
- Y. Lu
- F. Muzzio
- L. Najafizadeh
- A. Neimark
- R. Riman
- J. Scheinbeim
- M. Tomassone
# BME Graduate Faculty By Research Thrusts

## Biomedical Materials and Tissue Engineering

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## Biomechanics and Rehabilitation Engineering

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## Computational Bioengineering and Biomedical Imaging

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## Molecular Cellular and Nanosystems Bioengineering

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## NeuroEngineering

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## Physiological Systems and Bioinstrumentation

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Please see our website for the most up-to-date list of faculty and their research interests:

http://bme.rutgers.edu/grad_faculty