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Graduate Division Forms

The following forms are available through the Graduate Division website (http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/graduate-forms.aspx):

First Year Laboratory Rotations
- Rotation Registration Form
- One Time Rotation Registration Form (for Directly Recruited PhD students)
- Rotation Evaluation Form
- OSHA Form

Thesis Laboratory
- Thesis Laboratory and Department Declaration Form
- Change of Laboratory Form

(All Rotation Registration, Laboratory Declaration/Change of Lab Forms must be submitted with a completed OSHA Form)

Student Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Student Advisory Committee Summary Report Form

Qualifying Examination
- Form 1a: Proposed Committee Members
- Form 1b: Tentative Specific Aims and Title for Qualifying Exam Proposal
- Form 2: Confirmation of Committee Members
- Form 3: Date, Time, Location of Qualifying Exam
- Form 4: Chair’s Summary Evaluation

Thesis Defense
- Thesis Defense Committee Form
- Thesis Defense Committee Report Form

Leave of Absence/Withdrawal
- Leave of Absence Form
- Return from Leave of Absence Form
- Program Withdrawal Form

Transcript/Diploma/Certification
- Transcript/Certification Letter Request Form
- Request for Duplicate Diploma Form

Additional Forms
- Course Withdrawal Form
- Request for Credit for Prior Master’s Degree Form
- Transfer of Credit and/or Course Exemption Form
- Graduate Student / Alumni Publications and Awards
- Request for Approval of Co-Curricular Activity Form
- Update of Current Contact Information
Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Section I: Administration of the Programs

1) Mission of the Graduate Division and Purpose of this Document

The mission of the Graduate Division is to provide outstanding education and training to enable students to develop as independent biomedical scientists, capable of carrying out significant research aimed at understanding biological systems and the eventual cure of human diseases. The PhD degree administered by the Graduate Division of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (hereafter referred to as the "Graduate Division") is an affirmation of the student's ability to conduct independent and original research. This degree is achieved by completing a defined but individualized curriculum including formal coursework and a period of research culminating in a doctoral Thesis, mentored by a member of the Graduate Faculty, and supervised by the Student Advisory, and Thesis Defense Committees.

The Academic Policies of the Graduate Division are described herein and are meant to facilitate the productive and efficient progression of a student from admission into the Division to completion of the Thesis. In addition to the guidelines presented within this document, each student is expected to meet any additional academic requirements imposed by the degree-granting department, and to uphold the standards of professional behavior expected of all members of the College of Medicine and the scientific community.

2) Programs and Oversight

The Einstein Graduate Division administers the Programs in the Biomedical Sciences, and is currently comprised of the PhD Program, the MD-PhD Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), the Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), and the Summer High School Research Program.

The Graduate Division is headed by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, who is appointed by the Dean of the Medical School. The Associate Dean is responsible for implementing Division policies and changes in those policies, and for approving any change of student status including admission, dismissal, leave of absence, granting
of degrees, etc., and may act upon the recommendation of Program, Department, and Graduate or Medical School Committees.

3) Composition of the Graduate Division

The Graduate Division is comprised primarily of the basic science departments that are approved by the State of New York to confer the PhD degree. Faculty holding primary or secondary appointments in one of these departments may serve as a mentor for a PhD candidate. In addition, the Graduate Division offers a PhD in Clinical Investigation (PCI) track. This track includes faculty mentors who are designated or may have appointments in the clinical departments. The PCI administration serves as a “virtual” department for those students who declare a PCI-sponsored laboratory for thesis research. In order to sponsor a PhD, MD-PhD, PREP, High School, or SURP student, a faculty member must hold a primary or secondary appointment in one of the basic science departments, or be designated as a faculty for the PCI.

The Graduate Division confers the PhD degree and sets minimal requirements. Each department, subject to the academic policies of the Graduate Division, may designate specific course requirements for the PhD degree. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with the requirements of the specific department in which they will conduct their thesis research.

In general, the policies and guidelines described herein apply to all PhD candidates, including MD-PhD students during the PhD phase of their training.

4) Who’s Who in the Graduate Division

The Associate Dean for Graduate Programs (herein referred to as Associate Dean) oversees all aspects of the Graduate Division and is responsible for implementing policies that promote excellence in graduate education. The Associate Dean should be consulted for questions concerning programs, academic policies, student issues, conflicts in the classroom or laboratory, and any questions regarding professional or ethical behavior. The role of the Associate Dean also includes, but is not limited to, developing new programs, revising and implementing curriculum changes, overseeing the training grant and other initiatives, and responding to all institutional and university guidelines.

The Associate Dean selects the Director of the SURP and the Chairs of the sub-committees of the Graduate Executive Committee. The Associate Dean also appoints the Director of the PCI.

The PhD and MD-PhD Program Directors are Einstein faculty appointed by the Dean of the Medical School or the Associate Dean. They are responsible for assuring the quality of the academic program, implementing and guiding the development of the academic policies uniformly, and for fair treatment for the students and faculty of the Graduate Division. The Director of the MD-PhD Program appoints the Associate Director of the MD-PhD Program, and chooses the members of the MSTP Steering Committee.

The Associate Director for the PhD Program is appointed by the Dean of the Medical School upon the recommendation of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The Associate Director assists the PhD and MD-PhD Program Directors in all aspects of the programs, including development, with a primary focus on graduate student recruitment, and career and curriculum development, in order to improve the graduate program.

Students should feel free to contact the Associate Dean or the Program Directors with any questions, problems, or suggestions relating to their graduate education. It is the responsibility of the Associate Dean, Program Directors, and Associate Directors to direct students to appropriate institutional contacts, for example Chairs, faculty, administrators, or other offices of the Medical School.
The Executive Director for the Graduate Division administers legal documents associated with the Graduate Division, and functions as the Registrar. Specific responsibilities of the Executive Director include, but are not limited to, administrative management, registration, transcripts, oversight and grant submissions, and Graduate Division budgets. Any questions regarding transcripts/academic record, official files, or FERPA, should be directed to the Executive Director.

The Senior Academic Advisor advises graduate students on academic matters, provide feedback to the Academic Affairs Committee regarding academic progress, work with students, mentors, and advisory committees on issues that may arise, and provide input to the Graduate Committee as a liaison between the faculty and the Graduate Division.

Director of Graduate Education and Curriculum collaborates with the Curriculum Committee on creating new courses, revising established courses, and improving the curriculum. The Director also works with faculty on the implementation of new teaching methods.

Other Graduate Division Personnel includes the Assistant Registrar, Director of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment, Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Specialist, Events Coordinator and Special Programs Manager, Finance Manager and Grant Administrator, Analyst for Registrar Systems, Senior Business Systems Analyst, Assistant Administrator, and Program Coordinators.

5) Graduate Division Committees

There are several Graduate Division committees primarily comprised of faculty representatives from the basic science and the PCI departments. The committees serve to make recommendations for improving the programs of the Graduate Division.

The Graduate Executive Committee (GEC) is the executive committee of the Graduate Division and is comprised of faculty representatives from each of the basic science departments and the PCI, the Associate and Executive Directors of the Graduate Division, the MSTP and PhD Program Directors, the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, who serves as chair, and three student representatives selected by the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and MSTP Student Council (MSC), to further represent the interests of the PhD and MD-PhD student body.

Representatives of the GEC are appointed by department chairs or GSC students and typically serve a term of two to three years. The GEC recommends to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs additions or changes to policies of the Graduate Division, and approves changes or additions to the Graduate Curriculum, and Qualifying Examination and Thesis Guidelines. Its members provide direct representation and feedback to and from the departments. All members are voting members and a majority “yea” vote is required for approving recommendations to the GEC. At least seven departments must be represented by voting members to establish a quorum. The Program Director(s) and Associate Director(s) may represent his or her own department for the purpose of filling quorum, if the designated department representative is absent.

There are sub-committees of the Graduate Executive Committee, the detailed functions of which are described further in specific sections of this document.

Sub-Committees

The Graduate Admissions Committee is comprised of faculty representatives from each of the basic science departments, the PCI, as well as a diversity representative. Members serve terms of two to three years. The Graduate Admissions Committee evaluates the acceptability of applicants for matriculation into the Graduate Division. The Associate Dean appoints the chair of this committee.
The MSTP Steering Committee is assembled by the MSTP Director and includes faculty, students, as well as a diversity representative who advise on admissions and other issues specific to the Medical Scientist Training Program.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee is responsible for the development, implementation and review of the graduate curriculum. The Graduate Curriculum Committee includes a faculty representative from each of the basic science departments and the PCI, the Director of Graduate Education and Curriculum, the Associate Dean, and three-to-four student (PhD and MD-PhD) representatives elected by the Graduate Student Council. Faculty representatives on the Graduate Curriculum Committee do not have to be course leaders. Individual faculty and student members may not serve concurrently on the Graduate Executive Committee and the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee is responsible for developing curriculum policy, reviewing course offerings, and recommending new graduate courses for approval by the Graduate Executive Committee. New graduate courses must receive final approval by the GEC prior to the start of the semester in which the courses are being offered.

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) includes a single representative from each of the basic science departments, the PCI, as well as the faculty member who is the Senior Academic Advisor for the Graduate Division, the MSTP Director and the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. An additional faculty member serves as the chair, who is appointed by the Associate Dean. The AAC oversees the academic progress of all students as they progress towards obtaining the PhD degree. The AAC meets multiple times throughout the year, including during the summer semester. Any student who does not maintain good academic standing, fails a course, receives a grade of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory in Laboratory Research (Laboratory Rotation or Thesis Research), fails the Qualifying Exam, receives an unsatisfactory Advisory Committee report, or is recommended for review by any faculty at any time, may be evaluated by this committee. The AAC also reviews the progress of all students who have been in the program for five years or longer and requests an Exit Strategy from these students. Additionally, issues of ethics and professional misconduct as they relate to students in the program may also be referred to the AAC.

The Qualifying Examination Steering Committee is comprised of faculty representatives from each of the basic science departments and the PCI as well as the faculty member who is the Senior Academic Advisor for the Graduate Division, the MSTP Director and the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. This committee serves to organize the Qualifying Examination and make recommendations regarding the exam guidelines and format. The Qualifying Exam is for the advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree. All students in the PhD and MD-PhD programs must successfully complete the Qualifying Exam en route to the PhD degree.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is chartered as the representative organization of the graduate students to the faculty and administration. The GSC gives students a formal voice in the operations of the graduate program. This group also plans social events and community service activities, maintains an active student listserv, and manages the Big Brother/Big Sister program in which each entering student is paired with an older student who serves as a guide and confidante during the first year.

Additional information regarding the GSC is available at: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/graduate-student-council/, or contact the current GSC Chair. (Contact information is available through the Graduate Division office.)

The MSTP Student Council (MSC) represents the interests of MD-PhD students enrolled in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). This group was formed to facilitate communication among MD-PhD students, faculty, and Einstein administration; participate in organizing recruitment events for MSTP applicants; provide academic, professional, and social support to MD-PhD students; and organize social and academic events relating to the Medical Scientist Training Program.

Additional information regarding the MSC is available at: http://mstp.einstein.yu.edu/, or contact the current MSC Chair. (Contact information is available through the Graduate Division office.)
6) Accreditation

Yeshiva University is accredited by the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Albert Einstein College of Medicine is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The following are the codes registered by the New York State Education Department for the designated PhD degrees in Biomedical Sciences:

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<th>HEGIS CODE</th>
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<td>0499</td>
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<td>PhD in Clinical Investigation</td>
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<td>0499</td>
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<td>Systems and Computational Biology</td>
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Section II: Admission and Matriculation

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination and encourages applications from qualified students regardless of race, religion, color, creed, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship status, gender, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity within the meaning of applicable law.

1) Application Requirements

All applications to the PhD program must be submitted directly online. Details of the application procedure are described on the Prospective Students page of the Graduate Division website, www.einstein.yu.edu/phd.

The Graduate Division admits applicants with diverse undergraduate training. It is generally expected that applicants will have successfully completed undergraduate courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, mathematics (including calculus), and physics, with advanced courses and laboratory work in biology, chemistry and physics or have successfully completed an undergraduate engineering curriculum. A course in biochemistry is strongly recommended. Successful candidates for admission will generally have had significant bench research experience.

Letters of Recommendation
Three letters of recommendation are required, preferably from individuals with direct knowledge of the applicant’s qualifications for graduate study.

Graduate Record Examination
Applicants must submit official scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), taken within the past three years from the admissions deadline (School Code 2997). Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Admissions Director. If the student has also applied to the Medical Scientist Training Program the MCAT scores can be used in place of the GRE, with the approval of the chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee.

Inquiries about the GRE should be addressed directly to the Educational Testing Service: https://www.ets.org/contact.

Transcript
A transcript or academic record is required from each college or university attended and listed in the Education Section of the application. Applicants who have attended international institutions, whose transcripts are in a language other than English, must also provide the certified English translation of the transcript.

International Applicants

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
The TOEFL is required for applicants who are not native English speakers and for applicants whose degree(s) was earned at a non-English speaking institution—in addition to the GRE. Inquiries about these examinations should be addressed directly to the Educational Testing Service https://www.ets.org/contact.

International Transcripts
All transcripts from international institutions will be subjected to independent verification from an outside agency prior to matriculation into the PhD program. The cost of this evaluation will be borne by the Graduate Division.
2) Pathways to Enter the Program

There are four pathways by which students enter the Graduate Division.

First: the "rotational pathway." Students who apply for the rotational pathway are typically interviewed on-site at Einstein (or on rare occasions by at least two phone interviews) and the application considered in its entirety by the Graduate Admissions Committee. A majority vote is required for recommending acceptance. Students who are accepted into the rotational pathway participate in laboratory rotations during the first year of the program. By the end of the first year, students in the rotational pathway will declare a thesis mentor and a department. See section further below on Declaration of the Thesis Laboratory for more information.

Second: the “direct pathway.” A small number of students may be accepted directly into a thesis laboratory and a department. Students who enter the Graduate Division by this pathway should discuss the structure of their program fully with their prospective thesis mentor prior to matriculating in the program. Students who enter the program by this pathway have already determined a strong affinity with the prospective mentor. Therefore, it is fully expected that the student will complete their thesis work in the laboratory of the prospective thesis mentor. All applications considered for the direct pathway will include at least two phone interviews, and the application is then considered in its entirety, as above, by the Graduate Admissions Committee. These students will participate in at least one laboratory rotation during the first year in the program, agreed upon with their thesis mentor. A student can only be accepted into the program via the direct pathway if the prospective mentor can confirm a commitment of two years of stipend support commencing at matriculation. Because the admissions standards for the direct pathway are the same as the rotational pathway, an applicant rejected for the rotational pathway is not eligible in the same year for admissions by the direct pathway.

Third: the “MSTP pathway.” Students may enter the Graduate Division through the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD-PhD program). Admission to the MD-PhD program is entirely separate from the PhD admissions process, requiring an AMCAS application and a secondary application to the Albert Einstein Medical School. Application instructions are provided on the MSTP homepage: http://mstp.einstein.yu.edu/. Admission to the MD-PhD program is approved by the MSTP Director, with advisory capacity from the MSTP Steering Committee. Students rejected for the MSTP may be considered for acceptance into the PhD program, if they have indicated this preference on the secondary application. Such applications are then considered in their entirety by the Graduate Admissions Committee, including personal interviews as requested by the Graduate Admissions Director or chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee. In this case, the MCAT scores can be used in place of the GRE scores, with approval of the Graduate Admissions Director.

Fourth: the “alternate pathway” to the MSTP. Students already enrolled in the Medical Degree (MD) program of the College of Medicine or the PhD program, may enter the MSTP through the alternate pathway by submitting an application to the MSTP Director.

3) Requirements for Matriculation

Incoming students must fulfill the following requirements prior to starting the program:

- Health Clearance,
- Human Resources Onboarding, and
- Academic/Education Verification.

**Health Clearance**

Incoming students must be medically cleared prior to enrolling in the Graduate Division. The clearance requirements are set by the Einstein Occupational Health Services Office. Without medical clearance, a PhD or MD-PhD student is unable to enroll in the program. Health clearance forms are sent to incoming students prior to the start of the program. The completed forms must be returned directly to the Einstein Occupational Health Office no later than the stated deadline date.
Questions regarding the health clearance forms should be directed to the Occupational Health Office.

**Human Resources Onboarding**
All incoming students are required to complete the onboarding process through Human Resources, which will include:
- Completion of student onboarding application
- Background screening, including criminal and SS Trace
- Urine drug screening
- Proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States for I-9 purposes
- Completion of online Preventing Workplace Harassment Training course

Questions regarding the onboarding requirements should be directed to the Einstein Human Resources Office.

**Academic/Education Verification for Matriculation into the PhD Program**
In order to enroll into the PhD program a student, at the time of matriculation, must hold at least a Bachelor’s degree from a college or university of recognized standing, or present evidence of an equivalent education. To fulfill this requirement, the incoming PhD student will need to provide official academic transcripts which includes the final degree award status and date to the Graduate Division office.

*Incoming PhD students who were educated in the United States* must arrange for the final official transcripts to be mailed or submitted electronically to the Graduate Division office by date of matriculation into the PhD program.

*Incoming PhD students who were education outside the United States* are required to provide a course by course credential evaluation with degree equivalency. The deadline to fulfill this requirement is communicated to the incoming student in advance of their matriculation date. The preferred company is World Education Services (WES). The cost for the WES course by course evaluation for incoming first-year PhD students will be covered by Einstein. Visit the WES website [http://www.wes.org/required/](http://www.wes.org/required/) for information regarding the required documents for credential evaluations. Questions regarding the academic transcripts should be directed to the Einstein Graduate Admissions Office.

**4) How to Apply**
All applicants apply directly to the Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences, not to individual departments. Applications for admission to the PhD program are available online from the Graduate Division website ([www.einstein.yu.edu/phd](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/phd)) after September 1st, for entrance the following July/August.

In addition to the online application, applicants must submit **GRE scores** (school code 2997), **three letters of recommendation** (online only), **official transcripts** (uploaded to online application) and **TOEFL scores** (for international applicants).

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the Graduate Division office receives all required materials by the deadline date.

Admission to the Graduate Programs is contingent on completion of the undergraduate degree. The final undergraduate transcript showing that the Bachelor’s degree has been conferred is due before the date of matriculation. The official transcript(s) must be mailed to:

Graduate Admissions  
Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
1300 Morris Park Avenue  
Belfer Building, Room 203  
Bronx, NY 10461
Alternatively, the official transcript may be sent electronically directly from the undergraduate registrar’s office to phd@einstein.yu.edu.

Students wishing to transfer from another graduate program must follow the same application procedures and deadlines. There is only one date of matriculation (fall semester) and students may not enter the program mid-year.

For application to the MD-PhD program, visit the MSTP homepage at http://mstp.einstein.yu.edu/. Applications to the PhD program via the MSTP Alternate Pathway are accepted in the Graduate Division office during the spring semester. (Information is available in the Graduate Division office.)

Inquiries regarding the application process for the PhD and MD-PhD programs can be sent to:
- PhD application and program queries: phd@einstein.yu.edu
- MSTP application and program queries: mstp@einstein.yu.edu
Section III: What to Expect: A Five Year Plan to the PhD

1) A General Guideline to the Einstein PhD (Years One through Five)

While every student will have a unique experience, it is expected that on average it will take five years to complete the PhD degree. The successfully defended PhD thesis will provide new information based on original experimental data and it is not possible to predict the twists and turns required to arrive at the eventual dissertation. Below is a general guideline that should be considered an average path to the PhD degree. Again, this is not to be taken as a literal plan, but rather as a general guide of expectation.

Year One: Courses and Laboratory Rotations

Graduate Courses:
PhD students: First year PhD students are required to complete at least six (6) course-credits per course block and a minimum of 21 course-credits overall.

MD-PhD students: First year MD-PhD students are required to complete at least four (4) to six (6) course-credits per block and a minimum of 18 course-credits overall. MD-PhD students are also required to take several MSTP-specific graduate courses in the first year (see Appendix II: MD-PhD Graduate Requirements).

There are three course blocks during the academic year: Block I of the fall semester, and Blocks II and III of the spring semester. During the first year, the Associate Dean and Senior Academic Advisor will advise students on which courses to take during which course block. (MD-PhD students are advised by the MSTP Director).

All PhD and MD-PhD students must successfully complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandates that all pre-doctoral fellows satisfy the requirement for formal training in the responsible conduct of research.

All PhD students must successfully complete the first year course on becoming a scientist, typically in the first year of the program.

It is expected that students will complete their course requirements in the first year. The graduate curriculum is quite broad and allows for each student to customize his/her own curriculum based on research interests. However, some courses are required and students should familiarize themselves with the course requirements and recommendations of the basic science department that they may be interested in joining (see Appendix I: Department-specific Course Requirements and Course Recommendations).

Note: The Academic Affairs Committee reviews the academic progress of all first year students.

Laboratory Rotations:

PhD students are expected to complete a minimum of two laboratory rotations during the first year during the designated rotation periods as listed on the academic calendar.

At the end of the second rotation (third rotation, if applicable), students are expected to declare a thesis mentor/laboratory and department. Any exception requires noted approval from the Associate Dean. Occasionally, students are permitted to complete a fourth rotation in the summer following the first year, and then declare a lab. All PhD students must declare a lab by the end of the summer semester following their first year in the program.

Rotations are not permitted beyond the end of the summer semester of the first year. Students are required to have declared and have been admitted into a thesis laboratory by the start of the fall semester in year two.
Directly Recruited PhD students are required to complete a one-time laboratory rotation in the first year of the program during one of the three rotational periods as listed on the academic calendar. This one-time rotation can be completed during any of the three rotation periods of the year.

If this requirement is not met, registration for the second year may be blocked, and the student may receive a grade of Unsatisfactory for the laboratory rotation. (Directly-recruited PhD students declare their thesis laboratory and department upon matriculation into the PhD program.)

MD-PhD students are generally expected to perform their laboratory rotations during the first and second summers in the program. MD-PhD students typically declare their thesis mentor/laboratory and department at the end of the second year in the MSTP.

Rotation Evaluation:
The faculty member with whom the student rotates, must submit a Rotation Evaluation (grade) at the end of the rotation.

Any Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory grade in Laboratory Rotation may be cause for review by the Academic Affairs Committee.

Year Two: Initiate a Hypothesis and Generate Preliminary Data

Graduate Courses:
It is expected that all coursework will be finished by the end of year one. However, if there are any courses that still need to be completed, it is expected that these will be completed by the end of the second year. Students must review their department-specific course requirements and complete any necessary courses required of their declared department.

Thesis (Laboratory) Research:
During the second year in the program, the student begins to generate preliminary data and to develop a hypothesis. It is expected that this hypothesis will change significantly during the coming years, but it is essential to develop a general framework at this time. Pilot projects and feasibility assessments may be carried out at this time, and it is appropriate to attempt risky projects that might have a high impact on the particular field of inquiry.

Qualifying Examination (for the advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree):
Students will take the Qualifying Examination in year two (year three for MD-PhD students). Any exception to this timeline must be approved by the Associate Dean (or MSTP Director for MD-PhD students).

Student Advisory Committee (SAC):
By the end of year two, each student must have chosen a Student Advisory Committee and arranged an initial meeting to discuss the hypothesis and preliminary data. Starting in year two, each student must meet with their SAC at least once per academic year and more frequently as the student progresses through the program (i.e. at least once every six months in year four and higher). Students who have not had an Advisory Committee meeting as required will be blocked from registration in the subsequent semester.

Year Three: Develop the Thesis Aims

It is expected that during year three the data obtained will tighten and focus the overall hypothesis. Experiments will continue to further develop the Aims, and weaker or unreliable approaches may be discarded by the end of this year, to focus effort on the strongest Aims. A Student Advisory Committee meeting should be scheduled to evaluate progress thus far. It is expected that manuscript drafts should begin to develop.
Year Four: Write Manuscripts and Develop Exit Strategy

This should be a time of strong research productivity. The strongest Aims that will constitute the thesis will solidify and completed manuscripts are expected to be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. At the end of the fourth year, the student should develop an Exit Strategy to be approved by their Student Advisory Committee (SAC). Each student is required to meet with their SAC at least twice per year (or more) in the fourth year or higher.

Year Five: Work towards Publication(s) and Submission of the Dissertation

During the fifth year, the student should be finishing experiments that will facilitate publication of the doctoral research in the primary literature. By this time, the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) should be in agreement regarding what is required for completion of the thesis. The SAC must grant the student permission to “write and defend” the thesis. Prior to defending, students who wish to write and defend must attend a mandatory Thesis Workshop on plagiarism, held in the fall. Students must begin planning for the thesis defense at least six to nine months prior to the anticipated date of the defense.

To march in the May graduation commencement ceremony, all defense requirements and appropriate paperwork (including the Dissertation, and additional forms) must be submitted in April—the specific April deadline date will be indicated on the academic calendar each year.

In some cases, students will continue into the sixth year. Permission to continue thesis research beyond the fifth year may require submission of an exit strategy, developed by the student in conjunction with the mentor and the Student Advisory Committee. This exit strategy may be reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee that reviews the academic progress of students who’ve completed five or more years in the program.

2) General Information Regarding Co-Curricular Activities and Attendance at Scientific Conferences

Request for Co-Curricular Activity

Co-Curricular Activity is defined as an activity that has some education value and relevant to the student’s graduate training. Some examples of co-curricular activity include serving as a Teaching Assistant or Tutor for a course, serving as a mentor in the summer undergraduate research programs, participating in writing internships with the office of public affairs, etc.

To participate in a co-curricular activity, the student must:
   a) Be in good academic standing, i.e. not be on academic probation
   b) Be making acceptable progress towards completing their thesis research, as documented by their Student Advisory Committee reports
   c) Have the consent of the mentor to participate in the co-curricular activity
   d) Receive approval from the Associate Dean (or MSTP Director if an MD-PhD student)
   e) International students must receive additional approval from the Office of International Services for participation in co-curricular activities.

Co-curricular activities must be approved by the Associate Dean, or MSTP Director if applicable.

Co-curricular activities are expected to not significantly detract from progress in a student’s thesis research and should be limited to a short duration, except in unusual circumstances. Mentor(s) reserve the right to prohibit the graduate student(s) in their lab from participating in teaching activities.

A student may be financially compensated for teaching efforts, in addition to the student stipend.
A student on an F-1 Visa must contact the Office of International Services for permission to participate in co-curricular activities.

*Students must submit a completed Request for Approval of Co-Curricular Activity Form to the Graduate Division office (Belfer 202) prior to starting any co-curricular positions.*

**Request for Funds to Attend a Scientific Conference**

Based on the availability of funds, the Graduate Division may provide shared support for student attendance at regional or national scientific meetings, *if the student is making an oral or poster presentation*. **Student travel support is limited to one (1) trip per year, per student.**

Customarily, support is divided among the student’s laboratory and the Graduate Division, (and often the department) and may be used for any combination of registration fees and travel expenses. **The total amount of support provided by the Graduate Division is based on the availability of funds at the time the request is received.**

*Students must submit a completed Request for Funds to Attend a Scientific Conference Form to the Graduate Division office, prior to attending the conference/meeting.* The form is available in the Graduate Division office in Belfer 202.

3) **Elective Externship**

A student may request approval to participate in an elective externship at a Pharmaceutical/Research company. In order to be eligible the student:

- must be in the second or third year of the PhD program (or PhD phase for an MSTP student)
- must have satisfied all course and course-credit requirements
- must have successfully completed the Qualifying Examination
- must be in good academic standing
- must have full written permission from their thesis mentor (see Elective Externship Form which is available in the Graduate Division office, Belfer 202)

**Externship qualifications:**

- The elective externship must be scientifically related to the student's thesis lab/project or otherwise justified as pertaining to the student’s development.
- Only one elective externship is permitted per student during their doctoral training.
- Externship must not exceed 4 months.

If the student meets the criteria noted above, the student must submit the Request for Approval of Elective Externship form to the Graduate Division office at least 3 months prior to the start of the externship. Student may not begin externship without the expressed written approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

If externship is approved, the student will be registered for the “Elective Externship” course which will result in full-time status. This course will appear on the graduate record/transcript. At the end of the elective externship, an evaluation form must be completed and signed by the externship supervisor. A final grade of Satisfactory (S), Needs Improvement (NI) or Unsatisfactory (U) as provided by the externship supervisor will be recorded permanently on the student's graduate record/transcript.

If the externship is paid, the student Einstein stipend will be suspended for the period of the externship. However, if the student is on the Einstein Student Health Plan, their health coverage will continue.

*The Graduate Division bears no financial responsibility for an elective externship.*
Section IV: Program Requirements, Registration and Courses

1) Formal Residency Requirements, Full-time Status, and Credit Hours

The residency requirement for the PhD degree consists of a minimum of three (3) years of full-time graduate studies and research. A minimum of two (2) of these three years must be spent in residence at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Matriculated students of the Graduate Division are formally defined as students accepted for PhD training who are engaged in formal courses and/or research training, totaling a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per fall and spring semester and six (6) credit hours during the summer.

All students are required to maintain full-time status. Full-time status is defined as maintaining a registration of nine (9) credits or more at all times throughout the academic year. There is no “part-time” or “half-time” status in the Graduate Division. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to dismissal from the Graduate Division.

Credit Hour Definition for Courses: One (1) credit hour is earned for fifteen (15) 1-hour (of 50 minutes each) sessions of lecture or classroom instruction, with the expectation of two (2) additional hours of outside study or reaching for each class session.

Credit Hour Definition for Laboratory Rotation and Full-Time Thesis Research: One (1) credit hour is earned for each forty-five (45) 1-hour session of academic activity. Forty-five hours of academic activity yields one (1) credit hour. Full-time supervised research, including instruction at the laboratory bench and conference with the research advisor, is the most important educational component in the training of a research scientist. A semester of full-time supervised research is considered to be the equivalent of twelve (12) credit hours.

2) Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is a required condition of receiving credit for courses. Any student who is not in regular attendance for a course may be prohibited from taking the exam and/or receiving a passing grade for that course. If the course leader denies a student permission to take the exam because of failure to attend classes regularly, the student shall receive a grade of “F” (Fail) or “I” (Incomplete) at the discretion of the course leader. Each course leader may supplement this general attendance requirement by announcing a more specific attendance requirement for a particular course. It is expected that a course leader who imposes a more specific attendance policy will do so in writing, setting out the policy and sanctions for its violation, but this is not an absolute requirement.

Students in “active” status must maintain regular attendance in the lab while completing a laboratory rotation or thesis research. A student who is not in regular laboratory attendance may receive a grade of “NI” (Needs Improvement) or “U” (Unsatisfactory) for Thesis Research or Laboratory Rotation.

Regular attendance is essential to maintaining full-time enrollment status. A student who falls out of status may be impacted negatively in terms of federal aid eligibility and/or loan deferment.

Grades of Fail, Incomplete, Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory will lead to a review of the student’s academic record by the Academic Affairs Committee. Receipt of any one of these grades is grounds for academic probation. Multiple grades of Fail, Incomplete, Needs Improvement and/or Unsatisfactory may lead to dismissal from the program.
3) Graduate Program Course Requirements

All PhD and MD-PhD students must successfully complete the **Responsible Conduct of Research** (RCR) course, typically in the first year of the program. This is a critical course to complete as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandates, without exception, that all pre-doctoral fellows satisfy the requirement for formal training in the responsible conduct of research. The PhD degree will not be granted if this course is not successfully completed. Any exceptions to this course requirement must be approved by the Associate Dean.

Course-credit earned from successfully completing the Responsible Conduct of Research course is **not counted** towards the total number of credits required for the doctoral degree.

**PhD Students:**
- Must successfully complete the first-year course on becoming a scientist, in addition to RCR.
- Must successfully complete a minimum of 21 graduate course credits, preferably in the first year.
- May apply for **transfer credit**.
- May apply for course exemption.
- May apply for **Master's credit**.
- With approval from the Associate Dean, can transfer into the Einstein graduate program from another graduate program and receive transfer of credit for graduate courses taken at the prior institute, noted as “transfer with advanced standing”.

**MD-PhD Students:**
- Must successfully complete a minimum of 18 graduate course credits, preferably in the first year.
- Must successfully complete the following MSTP-specific graduate courses, in addition to RCR:
  - Biochemistry
  - Histology and Cell Structure
  - Membrane Physiology and Transport
  - MSTP Cardiac Physiology
  - MSTP Mechanisms of Disease
  - Renal, Respiratory, and Acid-Base Physiology
- **Note:** Credit hours earned from completing the Histology and Cell Structure and MSTP Mechanisms of Disease **do not count** towards satisfying the 18 course credit program requirements.
- May apply for **transfer credit**.
- May apply for course exemption.
- May apply for **Master's credit**.

Final approval for transfer credit, Master's credit and course exemptions is granted by the Associate Dean. Once approved, these credits are reflected on the student's graduate transcript.

In addition to having fulfilled the conditions and requirements of the Graduate Division, as set forth in these guidelines, **candidates for the PhD degree must also adhere to their department-specific course requirements outlined further in Appendix I.**

4) Transfer Credit and Course Exemption

The Associate Dean or Program Director must approve transfer credit or exemption.

**Transfer Credit:**
A student may be granted credit for courses if the student has successfully completed similar graduate courses in their previous training. The determination of equivalency of graduate level courses taken at other institutions (including courses taken at foreign institutions) will be decided by the Associate Dean or Program Director, who acts upon the recommendation of the faculty member who is the current leader of the course for which equivalency and/or transfer credit is being sought. The student must present the syllabus and related course information, as well as evidence of successful completion of exams and course requirements (official grade) in order for the course leader to determine equivalency. The course leader may then recommend “transfer credit,” in which case, the credit is applied toward the PhD degree and this is indicated on the student’s transcript.

Students may receive transfer credit for no more than two graduate courses. However, if a student transfers to the Einstein PhD program from another accredited doctoral program, additional courses may be approved for transfer credit. Transfer credit is not available to students who were previously granted Master’s credit. (See Section IV, Part 6: Master’s Credit).

Course Exemption:
Alternatively, the course leader may recommend “exemption” in which case the credits of the exempted course do not count toward the total number of required course credits (21 for PhD; 18 for MD-PhD); no credit is earned for course exemption and another course should be taken in its place. However, an exempted course may fulfill a department-specific course requirement. Course exemption may be granted if the student successfully completed a similar graduate course at a previously attended institution.

5) Department-Specific Course Requirements and Course Recommendations

See Appendix I.

6) Master’s Credit

If a student enters the program with a Master of Science or Master of Arts degree from a relevant discipline, (or a PhD student enters the program with an MD degree) the student may apply for Master’s credit.

If the request is approved,

- Students who matriculated in 2012 or prior:
  - Are granted credit for two graduate courses. PhD students then need to successfully complete at least five (5) graduate courses instead of the mandated seven (7); MD-PhD students then need to successfully complete three (3) graduate courses instead of the mandated five (5).
- Students who matriculated in 2013 or after:
  - Are granted three (3) course credits. PhD students then need to successfully complete 18 course credits instead of the mandated 21; MD-PhD students then need to successfully complete 15 course credits instead of the mandated 18.

Students should apply for Master’s credit within their first year of matriculation into the program by submitting the Request for Credit for Prior Master’s Degree form with appropriate documentation (i.e. official Master’s transcript with degree conferred or a copy of the Master’s diploma).

No transfer of credit for courses will be granted if a student is afforded Master’s credit. However, if a student transfers to the Graduate Division from another accredited doctoral program, additional courses may be approved for transfer credit.
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Note: Being granted Master’s credit does not waive the requirement of six (6) course credits per block. A student who has been granted Master’s credit MUST still register for a minimum of six (6) course credits per course block in order to maintain full-time student status.

7) Registration

The Graduate Division operates on the semester system (fall, spring and summer). The fall semester consists of one course block and one rotation period (Block/Rotation Period I), typically spanning early August to late November. The spring semester consists of two course blocks and two rotation periods (Block/Rotation Period II: November-March, and Block/Rotation Period III: March-June). Each year, a detailed academic calendar is posted on the Graduate Division website: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/calendar.aspx. The Graduate Division Academic Calendar outlines the specific dates of each course block and rotation period, all registration dates/deadlines, course add/drop and withdrawal dates, and program holidays.

Every PhD and MD-PhD student must register online during the designated registration periods as indicated on the academic calendar. It is each student’s responsibility to do so. Failure to register may jeopardize the student status.

If a student has completed their course requirements and is doing solely thesis research the student must register for full-time Thesis Research (12 credits in fall and spring; 6 credits in summer) in order to maintain full-time student status.

If a student has successfully completed the thesis defense, but has not yet submitted all the final required forms for the doctoral degree prior to the start of the subsequent semester, the student must register for Thesis Research during the next registration period.

It is every student’s responsibility to register during the designated registration periods as published on the academic calendar. Students not registered by the published date will be considered as non-matriculated.

First Year Students: Registration for first year students is in accordance with advisory sessions with the Associate Dean, Senior Academic Advisor, Director of Graduate Education, and/or MSTP Director.

Students beyond the first year are expected to seek out advice on course selection from the Associate Dean, Program Directors, Student Advisory Committee, and/or mentor.

It is every student’s responsibility to register during each designated registration period, unless on pre-approved leave of absence. Failure to do so could jeopardize a student status in the program.

8) Auditing a Course

After the student has completed their program and department-specific course requirements, a student may audit a course with the permission of the course leader. First year students may not audit a course without permission from the Associate Dean or MSTP Director. Audited courses may not be used for credit; no course-credit is earned for auditing a course. A completed Audit Registration Form is required to audit a graduate course. This form is available in the Graduate Division office.

Non-matriculated individuals may also audit a course; no credit will be earned.

When auditing a course, please be advised of the following:

- Final date to register for “audit” is the last day of the add/drop period as indicated on the Graduate Division's
9) Course Add/Drop and Course Withdrawal

During the add/drop period of each course block, as published on the academic calendar, a student may add or drop any course without penalty or notation on the transcript. Courses may be added or dropped online via MyYU Self-Service. First year students must have approval of the Program Director or Associate Dean prior to adding or dropping a course.

If a student wishes to withdraw from a course after the add/drop period, the request for withdrawal from a course must be made prior to mid-point of the course. Course withdrawals after the add/drop period requires the completion, with appropriate signatures, of a Course Withdrawal Form. Students who withdraw prior to mid-point of the course are given the grade of W (Withdrew). Withdrawal from a course following mid-point of the course will result in a grade of F (Fail) for the course.

10) Registration in Courses Offered by Other Einstein Programs

A student interested in taking a course in another Einstein degree program may do so with permission (in writing) from the mentor, and Associate Dean or Program Director, as a non-matriculated, non-degree-seeking student of that program. A graduate student is not eligible to matriculate in any other Einstein or Yeshiva University degree or certificate program while enrolled (in active-student status) as a PhD or MD-PhD student in the Graduate Division.

11) Registration and Transfer of Credit for Courses Taken at Another Institution While Currently Enrolled in the Graduate Division

A graduate student who wishes to take a course which is not offered at Einstein should present their request to the Associate Dean, in writing, after discussion with the mentor and Program Director. The Program Director must present a written request to the Associate Dean and certify that the course is directly relevant to the student’s graduate training goals. This must be approved by the Associate Dean before the student may register for the course. If a student has been admitted to a thesis laboratory, the mentor must also certify that he or she is aware that the student will be enrolled in a course at another institution. A student may not take more than one course per semester outside the Einstein College of Medicine and each course taken must be relevant to the student’s thesis project. Requests for financial support for tuition at outside institutions will be reviewed by the Program Director and Associate Dean. Approval of requests will be subject to the availability of funds specifically designated for this purpose.

Registration for courses outside the College of Medicine is the sole responsibility of the student in accordance with the procedures of the other institution. It is also the responsibility of the student to have an academic transcript sent from the other institution directly to the Graduate Division office. Transfer credit for the course will be granted only upon successful completion of the course and upon receipt of the official transcript from the institution where the course was completed. The course number, title, credit-hour equivalents, course grade and the name of the institution will be entered on the student's Graduate Division transcript as a transfer course.
The maximum number of graduate courses that can be taken outside the College of Medicine and funded by the Graduate Division is limited to two per student. No more than two outside courses may be used toward satisfying the requirement of graduate courses.

12) Completion of Thesis Research at Another Institution

Under unusual circumstances, it may be necessary for a student to complete the thesis research at another institution. This may occur, for example, if an Einstein faculty member relocates. Only students who have passed the Qualifying Examination may request permission from the Associate Dean or MSTP Director to complete their thesis research at another institution and still obtain the PhD degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The two-year residency requirement must, in any case, be met. The request to complete thesis research at another institution must be approved in advance by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The Graduate Division assumes no financial obligation for the student completing thesis research at another institution.

In order to remain in good academic standing, a student who is completing thesis research at another institution must fulfill the following requirements:

1) The student must have fulfilled the residency requirement described above;
2) The student must submit the appropriate form with required signatures and a letter from the department chair to the Associate Dean granting permission to complete the thesis research off-campus;
3) The student must confer with their Advisory Committee at least twice every year (either on campus or by telephone/video conference) and submit the necessary Advisory Committee meeting report forms to the department and Graduate Division office.
4) The student must register online during each registration period, observing all the registration deadlines published on the Graduate Division academic calendar.

13) Non-matriculated Students

A non-matriculated student is an individual (affiliated with Einstein) who wishes to register for a graduate course, but is not enrolled in the Graduate Division. A non-matriculated student may register for and receive official credit for graduate courses taken. Medical students, post-doctoral fellows, physicians in post-doctoral or residency training in Einstein affiliated hospitals, students from other colleges of Yeshiva University or colleges with which the Graduate Division or Medical School has established a formal relationship, as well as qualified employees of the College of Medicine may be considered non-matriculated students.

Registration

A completed Non-Matriculated Registration Form must be submitted to the Graduate Division office and requires approval from the course leader and Executive Director of the Graduate Division. The non-matriculated student is responsible for supplying documentation that all prerequisites are met, if such documentation is requested by either the course leader or the Executive Director. Note: Some courses may have size limitations that preclude registration by a non-matriculated student. A non-matriculated student who registers for a graduate course is considered to have equivalent status (within the course) as a graduate student and is responsible for fulfilling all course requirements including examinations, papers, and presentations. A non-matriculated student who fails a course may retake the course once. (Graduate courses may not be repeated more than once.)

When taking a course as a non-matriculated student, please be advised of the following:

- Final date to register as a non-matriculated student is the last day of the add/drop period as indicated on the academic calendar. No admittance to the course can be made after this date.
- A non-matriculated student may register for credit or audit only one course per block.
An Einstein or Montefiore email address and an Einstein or Montefiore ID card are required to register for credit or audit a graduate course.

Course Withdrawal
A non-matriculated student must adhere to all official course deadlines including withdrawal dates as published in the academic calendar. A non-matriculated student who withdravels after the add/drop period and prior to mid-point of the course is given the grade of W (Withdraw). Withdrawing from a course after mid-point will result in a grade of F (Fail) for the course. The results of a graduate course will be recorded on an official transcript by the Graduate Division, whether the course grade is Honors, Pass, Fail, Withdraw, or Incomplete.

For guidelines on withdrawing from a course see “Course Withdrawal” (Part 9 of this Section).

A non-matriculated student may also audit a course (for which no credit will be granted) and must follow the same instructions for course auditing.

When auditing a course, please be advised of the following:
- Final date to register for audit is the last day of the add/drop period as indicated on the Graduate Division’s academic calendar. No admittance to the course can be made after the final add/drop date.
- Change of status from “registered for credit” to “audit” or vice versa, can only made during the add/drop period.
- No credit or grade will be granted for auditing a graduate course.
- Only one course per block may be audited, or taken for credit.
- Audited courses cannot be used to fulfill departmental course requirements.
- A course may not be audited in which a grade of Fail was received in a prior semester/block.
- A failed graduate course may not be repeated more than once, whether as for audit or for credit.

14) Official Transcripts

Course and grade records will be maintained for every student in the form of a permanent transcript. The College has formulated its Student Record Policy to guarantee the rights of privacy and access as provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (see Appendix VII). The policies of Yeshiva University are consistent with FERPA and apply to all students. A student may review their academic record and unofficial transcript online (using the BANNER/MyYU system) at any time. Students who wish to obtain an official copy of their transcript may do so by submitting a Transcript Request Form to the Registrar of the Graduate Division.

In addition to all courses and grades, the following are also recorded on the transcript:
- Leave of Absence
- Official Withdrawal
- Academic Dismissal
- University Dismissal
Section V: Choosing a Thesis Laboratory

1) Laboratory Rotations

The first year laboratory rotations are intended to provide the student with exposure to the breadth of research in the biomedical sciences, the opportunity to acquire technical expertise, and the experience necessary to make an informed choice of the laboratory in which they wish to conduct their thesis research. The start and end dates of each Rotation Period are published annually on the Graduate Division academic calendar. Each student is expected to fully participate in the research activities of the laboratories in which they rotate and to seriously apply themselves to the laboratory work.

A student may not conduct two rotations in the same laboratory.

Research laboratories generally sponsor only one PhD or MD-PhD student for any given rotation period. Rotation mentors must have an appointment in a basic science department or be a designated member of the PhD in Clinical Investigation (PCI).

**PhD Students** are required to complete at least two laboratory rotations during the first year in the program.

Under unusual circumstances, this requirement may be waived with the approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

**Directly Recruited PhD Students**, during their first year in the program, are required to participate in at least one laboratory rotation outside of their thesis laboratory. The rotation can be performed in any laboratory in any of the basic science departments or PCI, during any of the three designated rotation periods. This one-time rotation laboratory is chosen in consultation with the thesis mentor.

**MD-PhD Students** typically choose two to three rotations which are performed during the summer months of the first and second years.

**Rotation Registration**
Each student must formally register for each rotation via completion and submission of the Rotation Registration form. PhD student rotations must be approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. MD-PhD student rotations must be approved by the MSTP Director.

**Rotation Evaluation**
At the end of each laboratory rotation, the rotation mentor completes a Rotation Evaluation form and provides a summary grade of *Satisfactory* (S), *Needs Improvement* (NI) or *Unsatisfactory* (U). This summary grade will be recorded permanently on the student's graduate transcript. It is expected that student and rotation mentor will discuss this evaluation; signatures of both the student and rotation mentor are required on the Rotation Evaluation form. This evaluation may be reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee.

A grade of *Needs Improvement* or *Unsatisfactory* in Laboratory Rotation is grounds for academic probation.

2) Mentor, Thesis Laboratory and Department Declaration

Students are expected to declare a thesis laboratory at the end of the spring semester of their first year in the program (end of second year for MD-PhD students). Each student must submit a Thesis Laboratory and Department
Declaration form to the Graduate Division office with all the necessary approval signatures. Under exceptional circumstances, and only with the prior permission of the Associate Dean or MSTP Director, a student may rotate in an additional laboratory (a fourth rotation) during the summer prior to entering the second year of the program (third year for an MD-PhD student). The student is then expected to declare a thesis laboratory immediately following the fourth/summer rotation. Failure to declare a thesis laboratory may result in dismissal from the program.

The declared primary thesis mentor must hold an appointment, at the level of Assistant Professor or above on the tenure track, in one of the basic science departments, or be a designated mentor in the PhD in Clinical Investigation (PCI). If the mentor has both primary and secondary appointments in basic science departments, the student is expected by default to enter the department of the primary appointment, but may choose to enter the department of secondary appointment due to the nature of the thesis topic upon recommendation of the mentor, and approval of the Associate Dean or MSTP Director.

Adjunct faculty members are not eligible to serve as thesis mentors to graduate students.

Once a thesis laboratory is declared, the student must register each semester for Thesis Research with their mentor. At the end of each semester, the mentor submits a Thesis Research grade of Satisfactory (S), Needs Improvement (NI), or Unsatisfactory (U). A grade of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory in Thesis Research is grounds for academic probation. Receiving multiple grades of NI or U in Thesis Research is grounds for dismissal from the program.

**Co-mentorship**

In some cases, it may be appropriate for a student to declare “co-mentors” at the time of laboratory declaration, as for example, collaborative projects which are equally shared between two laboratories. The following guidelines apply to co-mentorship:

- The student must designate one mentor as the “primary” mentor and the other mentor as the “co-mentor.” The co-mentor should also have an appointment as an Assistant Professor or higher in a basic science department or the PCI. The student will be considered to have declared in the department of the primary mentor.
- Neither mentor can participate as part of the examining committee for either the student’s Qualifying Exam or Thesis Defense.
- The student’s Advisory Committee must include other faculty (typically two to four) in addition to the co-mentors.
- Project development responsibility will be assumed by both mentors.
- Regular meetings between the student and co-mentors are strongly recommended.
- Both mentors must sign the student’s thesis dissertation upon time of defense and graduation.

**Associate (Contingent) Mentor**

There may be instances where a student’s primary mentor goes on sabbatical or is physically no longer located at Einstein. In such instances, the student and the primary mentor should designate another basic science faculty member to serve as an associate mentor to the student while the primary mentor is away. The associate mentor is expected to give the student hands-on advice in matters relating to the student’s laboratory research. The primary mentor is expected to periodically check in with the associate mentor to discuss the student’s progress in the lab. The student’s Thesis Research grade will be submitted by the primary mentor.
Section VI: The Qualifying Examination
For the Advancement to Candidacy for the PhD Degree

Candidates for the PhD degree must satisfactorily complete a Qualifying Examination, the purpose of which is to ensure that students have a general understanding of the biomedical sciences and sufficient knowledge of their chosen area of thesis research to proceed towards the PhD degree in a timely manner. The Graduate Division administers the Qualifying Examination in the fall/spring of each year. The examination is usually taken in the second year of the PhD program (or in the third year of the MD-PhD program). Under extenuating circumstances, a student may defer the examination with permission of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, based on gaps in his/her academic training, illness, a change in laboratory, or other extenuating circumstances.

It is expected that students will have completed most of their program-specific and department-specific course requirements prior to taking the Qualifying Examination. Successful completion of the examination marks a student’s transition to the independent research phase of his/her graduate training.

1) The Mission of the Qualifying Examination

Advancement to candidacy by passage of the Qualifying Examination reflects the judgment of the Graduate Division faculty that a student is adequately prepared to embark upon focused thesis research. That is, the student has demonstrated the fundamental knowledge in a chosen discipline and the creativity, discipline, and dedication to complete the PhD degree in a timely manner. Conversely, failure of the examination indicates faculty concern regarding the student's likelihood of success at conducting PhD-level independent research.

2) The Responsibilities of the Candidate

A student who seeks to advance to candidacy for the PhD degree must take full responsibility for preparation for the examination. Each student should use the planned thesis research as the starting point for Qualifying Examination preparation. For the Qualifying Exam, the student is expected to:

- be scientifically conversant in their chosen discipline,
- demonstrate creative and critical thinking about their proposed studies,
- adhere to the highest standards of intellectual and professional integrity.

During the exam, the student must:

- demonstrate an understanding of the underlying principles and context of the proposed work,
- demonstrate scientific depth and breadth of understanding of the field.

Successful completion of the exam indicates that the student is ready to embark on his/her academic journey toward the doctoral degree.

3) The Responsibilities of the Mentor

The mentor is very important in a graduate student’s training. In preparation for the Qualifying Exam, the mentor:

- will work with the student to help the student develop an understanding of the field and relevant literature,
- will work with the student to articulate mutually agreeable (scientific) specific aims and provide guidance and recommendations on the development of the experimental approach,
- must read the student’s written proposal, and
may provide feedback on the written proposal, but should not write any part of the proposal.

Mentors must remember that the student is responsible for the crafting of a document that speaks in her or his voice. Mentors must understand that it is not their ideas that are being examined, but the student’s understanding of these scientific ideas and the student’s potential to conduct the proposed studies.

4) The Qualifying Examination Committee

The Responsibilities of the Qualifying Examination Committee

It is the responsibility of each specific Qualifying Examination Committee to decide whether it is in the best interests of the student, the laboratory, and the PhD program for the student to embark upon a course of thesis study. The successful completion of a PhD dissertation requires substantial commitment, time and resources on the part of the student as well as the mentor, faculty and institution. The examining faculty must balance the following criteria in rendering judgment on whether the examinee will be admitted to candidacy:

i) A student is expected to be conversant in their chosen area of scholarship including, but not limited to, their thesis project. The student may be examined on their understanding of topics covered in the graduate coursework, aspects of their specific field of study, as well as the principles and practice of techniques included in the Qualifying Examination proposal.

ii) The examiners must judge the extent to which the written document is the student's work and weigh their evaluation of it accordingly.

iii) The key responsibility of the examination committee is to judge whether the student’s written Qualifying Examination proposal and the oral defense of it demonstrate critical thinking and creative approaches to the proposed studies.

In summary, the examination committee must decide whether to welcome the student through the gateway to the PhD, hold the student for reconsideration by failing them on the first examination or close the door and direct them to another professional endeavor by failing them on the second examination.

Composition of the Examination Committee

A Qualifying Examination Steering Committee (QESC) organizes each year’s Qualifying Examinations. The QESC is composed of faculty representatives from the Basic Science Departments and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) and is chaired by a committee member appointed by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The number of department representatives to the QESC varies to avoid student/mentor conflict of interest and depends on the number of students taking the examination in a given year.

At an announced date (see Timeline), each eligible student, in consultation with the mentor(s), submits a list of four to eight faculty members whose expertise and interests the student feels would be appropriate to their area of study. The Steering Committee will use the student’s list as much as possible to assemble the Examination Committee. The student’s Qualifying Examination Committee includes:

- Four faculty from the above referenced departments.
- A department representative from the QESC who serves as the examination committee chairperson. Occasionally, due to conflicts of interest, faculty availability, etc., the chairperson may be a faculty member who is not currently sitting on the QESC. The chairperson will approve the proposed Qualifying Exam Committee(s) on which they have been selected to chair.
- Examining Committees typically include at least two members of the student’s home department. Appropriate faculty from related programmatic areas may substitute for a departmental representative.
- Mentors, co-mentors and/or associate mentors may not serve on their student’s examination committee nor are they present during the oral examination. If a student has formed a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) prior to the examination, a member of their SAC may not serve on the student’s Qualifying Exam Committee.
5) Scheduling and Preparation for the Qualifying Examination

**Scheduling of the Examination**
*Each student is responsible for scheduling the date, time and location for their Qualifying Examination.* The examination will be scheduled within the designated 4 to 6-week period following the deadline for submission of the written proposal (see Timeline). Examinations may not be scheduled during official program holidays, as indicated on the Graduate Division academic calendar.

The student must submit to the Graduate Division office the form stating the scheduled date/time/location of their oral exam. *The Graduate Division office must be notified (via email: sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu) of any subsequent changes to the date, time, and location of the oral exam.*

If a student has a meeting with their Student Advisory Committee (SAC) prior to the examination, this meeting must be held no less than one month prior to the scheduled date of the oral examination.

*Four examiners must be present at the oral examination.* If a member is absent, the committee chairperson is responsible for identifying and contacting an alternate. If more than one examiner is absent, the examination must be rescheduled for the earliest possible date.

**Delaying the Exam**
Special circumstances may justify delaying the date of the Qualifying Examination. A student may request a delay from the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at the onset of the scheduling process. Alternatively, if a committee chairperson concludes that completion of a graduate course is essential to the student's preparation for the examination, the chairperson may request a delay from the Associate Dean, until the student completes the course.

**Preparation for the Qualifying Examination**
*Each student's preparation for the Qualifying Examination can be roughly divided into three parts.*

- **First** is achieving an understanding of the chosen area of thesis study through review of their completed course work, reading contemporary literature and discussion with faculty and peers. During the examination, the student may be asked to provide a five-minute critical summary of the last paper the student has read in their field or the most recent paper from their laboratory.
- **Second** is preparing a clear and compelling written proposal that will provide the examination committee with a springboard for their exploration of the student’s understanding of the chosen area of thesis research.
- **Third** is becoming adept at “thinking on one’s feet” in preparation for the questioning of the oral examination. As discussed in more detail below, examiners are more interested in a student’s understanding of the concepts, assumptions and limitations of their proposal than in the granular detail of routine experimental techniques.

Each student is responsible for the **first** part of his or her preparation. The Graduate Division has developed workshops, resources and guidelines to direct students through the **second** and **third** parts of their preparation. The workshops are summarized below.

**Workshops**

1. **Introduction to the Qualifying Examination** – An overview of the Qualifying Examination process and requirements.
2. **Proper Reference Citation: How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Questionable Writing Practices** – Proper citation is an essential part of the responsible conduct and reporting of research. **Attendance and registration at this workshop is mandatory.**
3. **Preparing the Qualifying Exam Proposal** – This is a mandatory “nuts and bolts” course that focuses on crafting a written proposal. Topics to be covered include: determining the scope of the proposal, presenting the necessary background and significance, drafting specific aims and presenting a
compelling research plan. All students are required to take the course and are therefore pre-registered. Students must attend all sessions of the course. A complete schedule of the course and course guidelines will be distributed separately.

iv) Qualifying Examination Oral Format and Sample Questions – This workshop focuses on the oral defense of the written proposal. Tips are provided on how to prepare for and answer the topic-specific and general questions asked by the examiners.

“Mock” Qualifying Examinations
Students are advised to participate in mock examinations, particularly with senior graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with expertise within and outside their area of thesis study. Mentors, co-mentors and examiners may not participate in mock examinations. Mock examinations are self-organized by students.

6) The Qualifying Examination Proposal

Writing the Proposal
A clear and compelling written proposal has a very positive impact on the oral examination; students are reminded that they will be evaluated primarily on their defense of the proposal, not on the proposal itself. Each student submits a written proposal based on their developing dissertation project. The proposal format is based on the format of an NIH NRSA fellowship application (Form PHS 416-1; OMB # 0925-0001). The format of the Qualifying Examination is presented in detail below. Basing the examination on the NRSA format is intended to give students a head start in preparing an application for extramural support.

The written proposal must be the work of the student. Mentors are encouraged to provide feedback about the aims, concepts and experiments included in the proposal but are prohibited from writing text for the student. It is expected that the student will seek editorial assistance from others. A student may not copy or adopt any unpublished writings by their mentor(s), particularly grant proposals. Discussion with mentors should certainly occur before writing starts and is permitted throughout preparation of the written proposal. Mentors are expected to conduct themselves in accord with the guidelines outlined in the mission statement at the beginning of this document. Students are encouraged to seek input and advice from other sources including fellow students, post-doctoral researchers, faculty members not affiliated with their examination and scholars outside of the Einstein community.

Qualifying Exam Proposal Format
Please read the following section carefully before crafting your proposal, as the format for the examination proposal is based on, but not identical to, the NIH NRSA fellowship application. Proposals that do not adhere to the specifications listed below will be returned without review.

- Length, Paper Size and Title Page: The proposal will be 18 pages excluding a title page and the Literature Cited, using standard 8.5” x 11” paper with 1-inch margins. The title page lists the proposal title and the student’s name, mentor and department.

- Font and Line Spacing: Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, Times New Roman or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 or 12 points. A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters. The proposal must be double-spaced except indented quotations, footnotes, tables, figures, legends and the literature cited are to be single-spaced. Quotations of more than three lines will be single-spaced, set off from the text in a separate paragraph and indented four spaces. Opening and closing quotation marks are omitted. Quotations of three lines or less are enclosed in quotation marks and are run into the text. Consult the library guide http://libguides.einstein.yu.edu/thesis.
Scientific Content of the Proposal

The proposal will describe your proposed thesis project in which specific hypotheses are tested through Specific Aims. Spell and grammar check your proposal, as a poorly proofed document will make your examiners irritable! Note that the Qualifying Examination does not include either a personal statement or an explicit preliminary results section. Administrative sections of the NRSA application are also excluded from the Qualifying Examination. Below are the sections of the proposal that are included within the 18-page limit.

1. **Background & Significance:** “Briefly sketch the background leading to the present proposal, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and relevance of the research described in this application by relating the specific aims to broad, long-term objectives.” [Form PHS 416-1] This section should be a review of the field and demonstrate the student’s knowledge of the field and relevant literature. **Note regarding preliminary results:** Preliminary data from the student’s work should not be included in the Background section and are not required for the Qualifying Exam Proposal. However, if necessary, a concise summary of unpublished results from the laboratory relevant to establishing the significance of the proposed work may be included here.

2. **Specific Aims:** “List the broad, long-term objectives and the goal of the specific research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.” [Form PHS 416-1] The Qualifying Examination will typically have two and not more than three specific aims. Students should discuss with their mentor the nature of their proposed aims, the overarching hypotheses and the likely directions and outcomes of the proposed thesis research. While specific aims can be interrelated, it is critically important that one aim not be entirely dependent upon another. The specific aims should be no longer than two pages, double-spaced.

The “Independent” (Third) Specific Aim is developed independently of the mentor or any PI. The mentor will likely comment on this aim, but it should not be something presented to the student directly by the mentor.

This aim should still test the hypothesis and will be critiqued for originality and creativity. It is expected that there will be variability in quality and feasibility of the aim, but the point is for the student to incorporate some ideas from outside the scope of his/her immediate laboratory.

This independent specific aim must be indicated by an asterisk (*) in the proposal.

Only the specific departments listed below require the inclusion of the third, independent aim in the proposal:

- Anatomy & Structural Biology,
- Cell Biology, and
- Developmental & Molecular Biology.
• **Research Design & Methods:** “Describe the research design conceptual framework, procedures, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Describe any novel concepts, approaches, tools, or technologies for the proposed studies. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. As part of this section, provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project.” [Form PHS 416-1] This is the heart of the ‘Qual’; the examining faculty will expect students to be able to elaborate orally on what they have written. **Helpful hint: a student should have a paragraph of additional explanation in mind for each written sentence.** It is also important to remember that it is concepts not protocols that the examiners are hoping to hear about! (If including unpublished results, students should remember that the examiners are interested in their ability to elaborate on the ideas expressed in the proposal, not in counting how many gels they have run!)

**Submitting the Proposal**
Each student is responsible for submitting their proposal on time to each examiner on their Qualifying Exam Committee. Students may submit their proposal via email (PDF) or hand delivery of a hard copy. **Check with your examiners to see which they prefer. Please be sure that your proposal is legible regardless of its delivery method!** A PDF of the proposal (with title page) also must be emailed to the Graduate Division office on or before the designated due date for submission (see Timeline). **The examining committee is prohibited from accepting a revised proposal after the submission due date.** Each student will have the opportunity to present late-breaking thoughts or results during their 15-minute presentation at the beginning of the oral examination (see below).

**7) The Oral Examination**

Audio and/or video recording of the oral examination is expressly prohibited. Any recording will be viewed as a breach of responsible conduct of research and the matter referred to the Academic Affairs Committee.

*A student may not approach their own Qualifying Examination Committee members for advice prior to the oral examination.*

This is a closed exam. Only the student and the four members of the Qualifying Examination Committee are allowed in the exam room.

Prior to actually beginning of the oral exam, the committee chairperson will ask the student to leave the room so that the examiners can briefly discuss the written proposal and the student’s academic performance to date. The student will then be invited to return to the room. **At the beginning of the exam, the student has 15 uninterrupted minutes to summarize the proposal.** A PowerPoint presentation is appropriate (but not required) for this presentation and can be used to remind the examiners of essential concepts, important questions, graphics or preliminary results. If s/he wishes, the committee chairperson may ask the student to ‘close the laptop’ and conduct the remainder of the examination as a ‘chalk talk’.

*The oral examination itself focuses on determining whether the student has incorporated the fundamental knowledge needed to progress into full-time thesis research.* The written proposal describing a student’s “budding” thesis project is the scaffold for the oral examination. However, each student is expected to be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of the basic concepts in biology, chemistry, physics or mathematics that underlie the questions posed in the proposal. In addition to knowledge obtained from graduate coursework and the relevant scientific literature, students will also be tested for knowledge of the primary and alternative experimental strategies and the ability to think on their feet about the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. **The primary focus of the oral examination will not be preliminary data.** Rather the oral examination will focus on the background, experimental approaches, aims, and how all this fits in the “big picture.” A list of representative “mock” questions is available that illustrate the types of questions and level of depth that might be expected.
The examination itself is free-flowing in form at the discretion of the committee. Typically, the examiners go around the room for a first round of questions. Students should strive to clearly and concisely answer the questions that are posed. It is equally important to be able to say ‘I don’t know’. Examinations typically run continuously from one to two hours. However, the committee chairperson can call for a short break if appropriate.

8) Grading of the Examination

At the end of the oral questioning, the committee chairperson will ask the student to leave the room so that the examiners can discuss and grade the student’s performance. Each examiner may vote Honors (outstanding, i.e. in the top 10%), Pass (clear advancement to candidacy), Postponed Decision (revision of the written proposal ONLY within one month) or Fail. A preliminary anonymous vote is followed by discussion and then a final vote. The chairperson will summarize the discussion on the Chair’s Summary Evaluation form. A copy of the Summary Evaluation form will be provided to the student and the mentor along with the comments from each examiner. The original reports will be provided to the Graduate Division office and a copy forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee.

The committee decision will be as follows:
- A majority vote of 3-1 is required for Honors, Pass, Postponed Decision or Fail;
- A 2-2 vote with two examiners voting Honors and two voting Pass is a grade of Pass;
- A 2-2 vote with two examiners voting Fail and two voting Honors, Pass or Postponed Decision is a grade of Fail;
- A 2-2 vote with two examiners voting Postponed Decision is a Postponed Decision

After reaching a decision the committee will ask the student to return and will inform the student of the committee’s decision. The grade Postponed Decision is to be used to obtain revision of the written proposal only. The revised proposal must be distributed to all the members of the examination committee within one month of the oral exam date. After submission of a revised proposal, the committee has seven calendar days to submit a final grade (Pass or Fail) to the Graduate Division office. If the oral examination is unsatisfactory, even if the written document is acceptable, the grade will be Fail.

Outcome of the Qualifying Examination

A student who passes or receives honors following their oral examination will be awarded the Master of Science degree and will advance to candidacy for the PhD degree.

A student who fails the oral examination will be placed on academic probation by the Academic Affairs Committee. The Academic Affairs Committee will review the Qualifying Examination Committee reports, all grades received for graduate courses, and laboratory productivity as indicated by the mentor. (Eligibility to retake the exam is based upon review of the student’s entire academic record.) The AAC will either recommend a “retake” of the examination in the next Qualifying Exam period (i.e. within six months) or in some circumstances, recommend dismissal from the program. The examination “retake” is not a “rebuttal” of the failed examination but rather is a fresh independent opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and insight required for advancement to candidacy.

A student is allowed only one retake of the Qualifying Exam.

A student who fails the retake will be dismissed from the program.

Appeal of Qualifying Committee’s Decision

Students may appeal a decision by the Qualifying Examination Committee to the parent Steering Committee, by making this request in writing to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The Associate Dean will review the request and may deny it or may refer to the Steering Committee for review. The Steering Committee may deny the appeal, in which case the original grade will stand, or may recommend that the student be allowed to repeat the examination with a new Exam Committee.
Section VII: Academic Standards and Student Academic Progress

1) Academic Standards

Each student is expected to familiarize him/herself and to comply with the rules of conduct, academic regulations and established practices of the Graduate Division and the College of Medicine. The admission of a student, his/her continuation in good standing, the receipt of academic credits, graduation, and the conferring of any degree are entirely subject to the disciplinary powers of the Graduate Division and the College and to the student’s maintenance of high standards of ethical, professional, and scholarly conduct. The Associate Dean, on the recommendation of the Program Director, a Department Chair, or the Academic Affairs Committee, may dismiss any student who is considered to be unfit for matriculation in the Graduate Division or for infringement of these policies and standards.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. All documents prepared as part of a student’s academic or research activities must be free of plagiarism. This includes but is not limited to written examinations in class or take-home, Qualifying Exam proposals, thesis proposals, fellowship applications, manuscripts, reports to the Advisory Committee and Academic Affairs Committee, and the PhD thesis.

For in-class or take-home examinations in graduate courses, unless otherwise clearly stated in the instructions for the particular examination, it is fully expected that the student will work alone and without any assistance from other students or sources.

2) Grades

Students who matriculated into the program in 2013 or prior should adhere to the previously published policies regarding final grades.

For students who matriculated into the program in 2014 and onwards, below is the policy regarding final grades:

All final grades become part of the students’ permanent academic record and will appear on the transcript. If a course is repeated, both grades for the course will appear on the transcript.

Graduate Courses Grades:
A student enrolled in graduate courses for credit will receive a grade of Honors (H), Pass (P), Incomplete (I) or Fail (F). Final course grades are submitted by the course leader.

A grade of Incomplete may be given to a student if, in the judgment of the course leader, the course requirements have not been met, but there is every expectation that the student can fulfill the course requirements in the allotted time. In this instance, the course leader will stipulate the requirements for course completion. The student must then satisfy all course requirements no later than one (1) month from the end date of the course, unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the Associate Dean. Such arrangements must be in writing, signed by the student and course leader, and submitted to the Graduate Division office. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that all grades of Incomplete are resolved in a timely manner. In the event that these requirements are not met, the Incomplete will be converted to a grade of Fail.

Note: All final grades are permanently recorded on the students’ transcript/academic record.

Additional grade options for graduate courses include: Exempt (E), Transfer (T), and Withdraw (W).
Graduate Course Examinations: Unless otherwise clearly stated in the instructions for the particular examination, it is fully expected that the student will work alone and without any assistance from other students or sources. Evidence of cheating or plagiarism can be used by the course leader as justification for giving a failing grade.

In the event of suspected cheating and plagiarism, the course leader must immediately provide the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs with a complete written report of the incident and evidence of cheating or plagiarism for review by the Academic Affairs Committee.

Exams should be graded by course leader(s) and/or by faculty participating in the teaching of the course and not by a graduate student(s) or Postdoc(s) serving as Teaching Assistant.

Failure of a Graduate Course:
- A student who fails a course will be placed on academic probation by the Academic Affairs Committee.
- No credit is granted for courses with a grade of Fail (F).
- Failed courses may not be used to fulfill department-specific course requirement or Graduate Division course credit requirements.
- After a course failure, a student may repeat the course a single time. **Graduate courses may not be repeated more than once.**
- Grades of Fail are permanently recorded on the transcript/academic record.

Appeal of a Course Grade:
If a student wishes to appeal a final course grade, the student may do so in writing to the course leader within one month of the end of the course. The student must also submit a duplicate written appeal to the Graduate Division Registrar’s office. The course leader has 15 days from receipt of the appeal to review and submit a final decision on the final grade: amend or leave as is. The course leader must notify the student in writing of their decision and copy the Graduate Division Registrar (sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu).

If the student wishes to further pursue a grade appeal, the Associate Dean will bring the matter before the Academic Affairs Committee. The AAC will discuss the student’s appeal and make a final decision. No further appeal on that course grade will be accepted.

The student should recognize that, following the appeals process, their grade may be amended in a direction that is not desired.

In all cases of grade changes following the appeals process, the student’s record and official school transcript will be amended to reflect any necessary grade change.

**Thesis Research and Laboratory Rotation Grades:**
Grade options for Laboratory Rotation and Thesis Research are: *Satisfactory* (S), *Needs Improvement* (NI), or *Unsatisfactory* (U). Grades are based on the student’s:
- Ability to budget time effectively
- Understand the project
- Read and use of literature in solving problems
- Execute experiments
- Evaluation experimental data
- Oral communication ability
- Lab notebook and experimental record-keeping
- General laboratory conduct
- Attendance and participation in lab meetings, seminars, journal clubs, etc.

**Satisfactory:** student is performing satisfactorily in the areas listed above.

**Needs Improvement:** the student’s performance requires improvement.
**Unsatisfactory:** the student is not performing up to the standards of a graduate student; significant improvement is required.

A student who changes thesis laboratories mid-semester will receive a grade of *Transfer* (T), indicating the change in laboratory.

A grade of *Needs Improvement* or *Unsatisfactory* in a Laboratory Rotation or Thesis Research constitutes grounds for academic probation. Receiving multiple grades of NI/U in Thesis Research is grounds for dismissal from the program.

The final grade for a laboratory rotation is tendered by the faculty (rotation mentor) under which a student is completing the laboratory rotation. This grade is provided on a Rotation Evaluation form which must be completed at the end of each lab rotation and signed by the rotation mentor and the student.

The final grade for Thesis Research is submitted by the student's thesis mentor at the end of each semester (fall, spring and summer).

### 3) The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and Required Meetings

**Purpose of the Student Advisory Committee**
The purpose of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is to provide critical feedback on the research plan, to assess experimental progress, and to advise the student when to write/defend the Thesis. The SAC is charged with aiding the student in moving efficiently towards the PhD degree, while at the same time maximizing the significance and impact of the thesis research.

The progress of modern science is measured by the quality and quantity of peer-reviewed scientific publications. These publications are frequently used to distinguish between the holders of “minimal” and “competitive” PhD degrees in the postgraduate job market. Because of this, the SAC meeting should focus on the factors that are limiting the student’s progress toward publishing high quality peer-reviewed scientific results.

**Composition of the SAC**
The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is chosen by the student and the mentor and consists of:

- Several faculty members—typically two to four—in addition to the mentor (and/or co-mentor). The committee members may be from any department and, if relevant, may include one member from an outside institution.
- At least one member of the SAC must be a senior faculty member (Associate Professor or Professor), who has successfully mentored one or more graduate students to successful completion of the Thesis.
- One member must be designated as the chair of the SAC, who will serve in this capacity throughout the student’s graduate training. The mentor or co-mentor must not be the chair of their own student’s SAC.
- A Postdoctoral Fellow or Instructor may not serve on the Advisory Committee of a graduate student.
- An Associate serving on a Student Advisory Committee must not be from the same lab as the student on whose SAC they serve.

The student should choose members whom he or she can trust to provide honest advice and critiques. Ideally, the SAC should consist of scientists who are able to comment on the student’s goals and can suggest if a goal does not sound feasible or if an approach seems too risky or unlikely to yield significant results. Each member should be capable of providing cogent, timely, and relevant feedback about the student’s project. It is not essential that all members be expert in the field, but it helps to find at least one.

The student, in consultation with the mentor, may change the composition of the SAC at any time. However, barring an unusual circumstance, the chair is to remain the same. The composition of the SAC is meant to be dynamic and may go through several changes during the time a student progresses to the Dissertation.
Each student is strongly encouraged to get to know their SAC members. If the members are truly familiar with the student and their work, they may also be able to provide useful letters of recommendation.

**Frequency of SAC Meetings**
The student is required to meet with their SAC at least once during their second and third years and at least twice (every six months) during the fourth year and above. The student, the mentor, the SAC or the Academic Affairs Committee may require the student to meet with the SAC at more frequent intervals. The span of time between SAC meetings is referred to below as a "project period."

The student should schedule a SAC meeting when it is due and should not postpone a meeting on the basis of anticipated scientific results. Students who do not meet their SAC meeting requirement(s) will be blocked from online registration in the succeeding semester. Release of this registrar’s hold and continuation in the program requires approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

**Scheduling an Advisory Committee Meeting**
The following recommendations may be helpful.

- **Setting a date**
  Scheduling a meeting involves finding a time that is a suitable fit with everyone’s schedule. Start to schedule the meeting early – at least one month before the target date. Remember that two meeting per year are called for during the fourth year of the student’s residence in the graduate program and thereafter. To facilitate scheduling, students may elect to take advantage of websites that support online appointment scheduling.

- **Committee attendance**
  Occasionally, it may be difficult to schedule a time when every one of the SAC members can attend. The student should still go ahead with the meeting on schedule if a majority of the committee members are present. It is permissible to have a committee member participate via Skype or other electronic means.

- **Reserving a room and equipment**
  Remember to schedule a conference room for an appropriate length of time. Also remember to schedule the use of any audiovisual equipment that you will need for the meeting.

- **Reminding the participants**
  Remind the Committee members of the time and place of the meeting several days in advance.

**The Student Advisory Committee Progress Report (Progress Report)**
It is required that a student submit a goal-based Progress Report to all members of the Student Advisory Committee at least one week before the meeting. The length of this report should be one to three (1-3) pages, single-spaced, and may include figures. The Progress Report should allow the SAC to assess the student’s progress toward a set of previously stated goals, to identify barriers to the submission of the student’s next scientific manuscript and to help the student to develop a set of new goals for the next project period.

In the absence of any directives to the contrary issued by the SAC, the Progress Report should be written in four sections as described below. It may also include figures to document the student’s scientific progress.

a. **Current Goals and Rationales**
   The goals and their scientific rationales for the current project period are listed exactly as they were specified at the previous SAC meeting.

b. **Progress Toward the Current Goals**
   For each goal, the student should provide a description of the progress made toward that goal. For goals that have not been met completely, a discussion of the difficulties that arose should be provided. **Members of the SAC will understand that many factors may affect the student’s progress toward a goal, including its technical...**
feasibility, the time required to meet alternate goals and the effect of any changes made to the direction of the student’s project.

c. **Additional Progress (optional)**
The student may provide a description of any additional scientific progress made during the current project period. The progress described in this section would ordinarily not be directly associated with a Current Goal but could form the basis of a New Goal.

d. **Proposed New Goals and Rationales**
The student should create a list of several Proposed New Goals to be achieved during the next project period. These Proposed New Goals should address the question of what barriers must be overcome next for the student to submit a peer-reviewed manuscript for publication. These proposed goals will be refined through discussion of the Progress Report by the student and the SAC (see below). For each Proposed New Goal a short Rationale (one or two sentences) should be provided to indicate why this Proposed New Goal is scientifically necessary.

The student should retain copies of all Progress Reports. The SAC may ask the student to provide a copy of the Progress Report from the previous project period. In addition, the description of research progress provided in these reports may help the student to write the initial draft of a scientific manuscript or a chapter of the thesis dissertation.

**A Typical Advisory Committee Meeting**
The emphasis of the Student Advisory Committee meeting should be placed on the student’s progress toward a set of previously specified goals, the identification of current difficulties, potential solutions to these difficulties and the specification of a set of new goals for the next project period. Progress toward these goals should bring the student closer to submitting a peer-reviewed manuscript and to completion of the requirements for the PhD degree. The SAC should also be available to support any efforts made by the student to acquire external financial support.

The length of time and the agenda of a Student Advisory Committee meeting will vary, depending on the needs of the student and the members of the SAC. However, a typical SAC meeting is described below.

- **Distribution of Forms**
The student should distribute copies of the Student Advisory Committee Member Report Form to all members of the SAC and a single copy of the Student Advisory Committee Summary Report Form to the chair of the SAC. Both forms are available under the “Student Advisory Committee Summary Report Form” link on the Graduate Division website: [http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/graduate-forms.aspx](http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/graduate-forms.aspx).

- **Review of the Student’s Progress**
The student is asked to leave the room for the SAC’s initial discussion of the student’s overall progress toward the PhD degree, the quality of the student’s Progress Report and any issues that the mentor wishes to raise. The SAC will then direct the mentor to leave the room to allow the student to discuss progress or issues with members of the SAC.

- **Scientific Background, Results and Plans**
The student then provides a description of any necessary scientific background, experimental results and future plans as part of a PowerPoint presentation. The SAC may decide, particularly after several meetings, that a scientific background review is not necessary or may decide to limit the time devoted to this review. This presentation should include specific references to the current goals and should conclude with the student’s proposed new goals for the next project period.

- **Discussion of Scientific Results and Plans**
A discussion by the student and the SAC of the student’s scientific results and plans in terms of the current goals and proposed new goals may occur during the PowerPoint presentation or after it has been completed.

- **Specification of New Goals and Rationales**
Toward the end of the SAC meeting, the student and members of the SAC should produce several new goals and rationales for the next project period. These new goals should direct focus toward the barriers that stand in the way of the student’s submission of a peer-reviewed scientific publication. The scope of these new goals should be appropriate for the time span of the next project period, if all goes well. The new goals will usually specify experimental work but may also refer to the submission of written work, including a scientific manuscript, the Thesis or an application for extramural funding. The student should provide members of the SAC with a copy of these new goals and rationales soon after the conclusion of the SAC meeting. These new goals will become the current goals of the next project period’s Progress Report.

- **SAC Forms**
  At the end of the meeting, *after the student and mentor leaves*, the SAC will discuss the items on the Summary Report Form (including the SAC Consensus Opinions section of the form). The chair will complete and sign the Summary Report Form. Each member of the SAC is also to complete the Member Report Form and hand these filled forms to the chair of the SAC.

  The student is then responsible for immediately collecting the original SAC Meeting Report Forms (Summary Report and Member Report forms) from their SAC chair and submitting the forms to the Graduate Division office. The student is also to submit copies of these forms to all members of the SAC, the mentor and their departmental office.

*Note:* A student who fails to progress in Thesis Research or are, in the opinion of mentor and/or SAC, performing poorly, may be recommended by the mentor or SAC, for review by the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). This may involve appearance of both the student and mentor at an AAC meeting to discuss lack of progress and the development of an academic plan. Failure to progress in Thesis Research is grounds for academic probation or dismissal from the Graduate Division.

**Permission to Write the Thesis**

The student will ordinarily have discussed with the mentor whether it may soon be appropriate to begin writing the Thesis. However, before doing so, the student must obtain permission from their Student Advisory Committee. Permission to write and defend must be documented on the SAC Summary Report. Although the student may have met the minimum requirements for course work, the Qualifying Exam, and the requirement for the submission of a suitable scientific publication, the SAC need not issue permission to begin writing the Thesis if it believes that the student’s overall progress or scientific maturity are insufficient for the defense of the Thesis.

If permission is granted to write and defend and the thesis (and defense paperwork) is not submitted within six months, then another Student Advisory Committee meeting will be required.

**4) The Academic Affairs Committee, Academic Probation and Appearance Before the Committee**

**Composition of the Committee**

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) consists of a representative from each of the basic science departments and the PCI, the Senior Academic Advisor for the Graduate Division, the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, and the Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). Each department representative typically serves two to three years, and is appointed by the relevant department chair. An additional faculty member serving as the chair of the AAC is appointed by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The Associate Dean, MSTP Director, and Executive Director of the Graduate Division are ex-officio, non-voting members of the AAC. Recommendations are decided by majority vote. At least seven voting members must be present to constitute a quorum. The chair of the AAC, with the approval of the Associate Dean, may invite other members of the faculty of the Graduate Division to participate as non-voting members of the AAC.
**Charge of the Committee**

The Academic Affairs Committee monitors the academic progress of all graduate students enrolled in the program. The AAC reviews the full academic record including course grades, rotation evaluations, Thesis Research/Laboratory Rotation grades, Qualifying Exam and Thesis Defense grades and any relevant faculty comments. The AAC informs the student, the student's mentor, and the department chair of any academic problems and is available to work with the Student Advisory and Department Committees (and the MSTP Steering Committee for MD-PhD students) to ensure that each student progresses in a timely manner towards the PhD degree.

A student who fails to progress in Thesis Research or is, in the opinion of mentor/co-mentor and/or SAC, performing poorly, may be recommended by the mentor or SAC, for review by the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). This may involve appearance of both the student and mentor at an AAC meeting to discuss lack of progress and the development of an academic plan (including milestones and a timeline). Failure to progress in Thesis Research constitutes a ground for academic probation. The AAC may recommend a leave of absence and/or dismissal from the Graduate Division.

A student who is consistently performing poorly in graduate courses, exams, etc. may be required to appear before the AAC.

The Academic Affairs Committee also reviews the research progress of students in the program five years or longer. The AAC may request that the student and the mentor provide a written Exit Strategy detailing the steps the student will take to ensure timely completion of the PhD degree. The exit strategy will be reviewed by the departmental representative to the AAC; this representative may ask other members of the AAC to also participate in the review and/or may request a full review of the Exit Strategy by the full AAC.

The Academic Affairs Committee will ensure that the academic policies of the Graduate Division are applied in evaluating students' progress. The AAC reviews matters regarding unethical or unprofessional behavior upon request by the Associate Dean or MSTP Director. Matters related to unethical or unprofessional behavior of any kind should be brought to the attention of the Associate Dean, who will make a determination of whether the Academic Affairs Committee or other administrative leaders (department chair, Office of the Dean, Security, etc.) should be consulted. The Associate Dean may call *ad hoc* meeting of the AAC to review a charge of unethical or unprofessional behavior.

The Academic Affairs Committee may place a student on academic probation for various reasons relating to the student's academic progress. A student who is having academic problems may be temporarily blocked ("registrant's hold") from registration the following semester. The hold will be released after the student meets with the Associate Dean, Senior Academic Advisor, the departmental AAC representative or, if applicable, the MSTP Director. The AAC will continue to monitor the progress of any student on academic probation, until that status is relieved.

**Appearance Before the AAC**

The AAC may request that a student and mentor appear at an AAC meeting. A student may be requested to appear before the Academic Affairs Committee for various reasons, including failure to progress in the courses and/or rotations, lack of progress in thesis research, and/or unethical or unprofessional behavior.

If a student has been requested to appear before the AAC due to lack of progress in thesis research, or upon recommendation from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), in preparation for the appearance, the student should:

- Prepare a brief presentation describing the research project and the current status of the goals that the student and mentor decided together will constitute the student's thesis research. Include a copy of all SAC meeting reports.
- Prepare a discussion of any experimental limitations that the student has encountered or is anticipated to encounter as well as the alternative approaches that the student is considering.
- Prepare a realistic timeline of the milestones to the completion of the research project and defense of the thesis, or alternatively, if the student is withdrawing from the program, prepare a realistic timeline of detailed actions that the student will take for transferring of the data and reagents generated during this time to the
mentor. Student will be asked for specific dates for each event so that the AAC can evaluate the feasibility of the student’s plan.

The student’s mentor will also be invited to the meeting to give their account of the situation and to review the student’s plan with the AAC.

At a meeting to which the student is invited, the AAC will typically review the student’s background and progress to date. The mentor will then be invited to come into the room and give their summary. The AAC will ask the mentor questions at this time. The mentor is then asked to leave, and the student will be brought in for their progress summary. At this time, the student will be given the opportunity to discuss with the AAC any issues the student may want to share with the committee regarding their mentor and/or Student Advisory Committee. After the student leaves, the AAC will have a discussion on what they’ve heard from the mentor and student, evaluate the student’s ability to successfully defend and complete the program, and decide on what action should be taken.

Following the meeting, the student and the mentor will receive a written letter with the AAC’s recommendation. The student and the mentor may be asked to meet with the Associate Dean (and MSTP Director, if applicable) to review the AAC’s recommendation. The AAC may outline a strict timeline with specific milestones and deadlines that the student will be required to meet. If any one of the deadlines is not met, the student may be dismissed from the program.

See policies below on Suspension or Dismissal from the Program.

**Academic Probation**
A student may be placed on academic probation by the Academic Affairs Committee for any of, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Upon receiving a grade of *Fail* in a graduate course,
- Upon receiving an *Incomplete* in one or more graduate courses in an academic year,
- Upon receiving *Incomplete* twice in the Responsible Conduct of Research course,
- Upon receiving a *Needs Improvement* or * Unsatisfactory* grade in Laboratory Rotation or Thesis Research,
- Failure of the Qualifying Exam,
- Failure to have regular Advisory Committee meetings as stipulated by the Advisory Committee Guidelines and/or as recommended by the Academic Affairs Committee,
- Failure of the Thesis Defense,
- Plagiarism,
- Failure to comply with registration or other programmatic requirements,
- Failure to progress in the thesis research
- Following an appearance before the Academic Affairs Committee
- For participation in actions that are not commensurate with high standards of ethical and professional scholarly conduct (see below, Standards of Ethical and Scholarly Conduct).

**What Happens When a Student is placed on Academic Probation?**
If a student is placed on academic probation, the student will be notified of their probationary status via a letter from the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. The letter will be copied to the student’s mentor(s), department chair, the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, and, if applicable, the MSTP Director.

The AAC may request a specific plan of action from the student, mentor, and department chair to rectify the probationary status. The student’s progress will continuously be monitored by the AAC. The student on probation, along with the mentor or department chair (or designate), may be invited to participate in AAC meeting(s) at which the student’s progress and plan of action will be discussed.

A student on academic probation may be blocked (“registrar’s hold”) from registration. In this event, the student is required to meet with the Associate Dean or Senior Academic Advisor, (or MSTP Director, if applicable).

A student on academic probation whose performance is not improving may be granted an academic leave of absence, may elect to withdraw completely from the program, or may be dismissed from the Graduate Division.
Removal from Academic Probation:
When the student on academic probation has satisfied the written requirements of the Academic Affairs Committee, the student will be considered to have regained “good” academic standing, as documented by a written letter from the chair of the AAC following a review of the student’s progress.

Standards of Ethical and Scholarly Conduct
The Associate Dean may ask for recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee to place a student on academic probation for participating in actions that are not commensurate with the high standards of ethical and scholarly conduct. According to the By Laws, the AAC reserves the right to consult the Einstein Committee on Promotions and Professional Standards in cases it perceives would benefit from objective review. If asked by the Associate Dean or the AAC, the Einstein Committee on Promotions and Professional Standards will review the case and present recommendations to the AAC, which may then act with or against those recommendations.

5) Change of Laboratory, or Dismissal from a Laboratory/Department

If a student wishes to change his or her thesis laboratory, or a mentor seeks to dismiss a student from the laboratory, the student or mentor seeking a change in status should contact the department chair and the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, or MSTP Director (if applicable). The department chair should confirm that both the student and mentor are aware of pending action.

When a student-mentor relationship is not working, there are several ways to resolve the problem. It is primarily the responsibility of the department chair to make an attempt at resolving the issue. It is recommended that the chair arrange (or designate) a Department Graduate Committee to meet with the student and mentor to help determine potential solutions to the conflict (for example, specific expectations on both sides that should be attained) and a timetable for any trial period (recommended one to three months) during which time the situation can be monitored by the Department Graduate Committee. If a trial period is agreed upon, then at the end, the student and mentor should meet with the department chair to report on the success or failure of the trial. The chair will provide a written recommendation to the Associate Dean or MSTP Director indicating if a change in laboratory or dismissal from the department is warranted.

In the case of a change of laboratory, the student must receive approval from the Associate Dean. Once approved, a Change of Laboratory Form must be completed with all the required signatures and submitted to the Graduate Division office. This form can be found on the Graduate Division website (www.einstein.yu.edu/phd). The student will receive a grade of Transfer (T) for Thesis Research under the former mentor for the semester in which the change of laboratory occurred.

In the case of a dismissal from the laboratory, the student may appeal to the Academic Affairs Committee to be allowed a limited period of time (up to a maximum of three (3) months) to identify another mentor for transfer; the student must declare a new thesis laboratory within three months. The Associate Dean must approve any change of laboratory, but is under no obligation to do so. If an appropriate mentor cannot be identified within the three-month time period, the student may choose to withdraw or may be dismissed from the program. The Graduate Division makes no commitment to the student beyond the three-month period.

6) Suspension or Dismissal from the Program

Suspension
In the case of a serious breach of ethical or professional conduct, or in the case of serious concern for the health or safety of a student or any other person or Einstein facility, the Associate Dean may, upon consultation with those program directors, mentors, and Einstein officials deemed appropriate and informed, suspend a student immediately,
pending further consideration by the appropriate and informed administrative personnel, wherein a recommendation can be made for subsequent return to active student status, return to leave, or dismissal from the program.

**Dismissal**
The Academic Affairs Committee, MSTP Director, or Department Chair may recommend to the Associate Dean a student for dismissal from the program. Only the Associate Dean may dismiss a student from the Graduate Division. In the case that an MSTP student is dismissed from the PhD phase of the program, the student file is referred to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs of the Medical School for further consideration.

Grounds for considering dismissal from the Graduate Division include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Failure of one or more graduate courses,
- 2) Failure of a repeated graduate course,
- 3) Failure of a required department course, subject to the recommendation of the appropriate Department Chair,
- 4) Failure of the Qualifying Examination (either on the first or second taking of the Exam),
- 5) Failure to declare a thesis laboratory after four rotations in the first year,
- 6) An *Unsatisfactory* grade in Thesis Research or Laboratory Rotation,
- 7) Repeated *Needs Improvement* grades in Thesis Research or Laboratory Rotation,
- 8) Failure of a Thesis Defense Examination,
- 9) Failure to progress in the thesis research
- 10) Failure to re-matriculate following expiration of a Leave of Absence, or
- 11) Participation in actions that are not commensurate with high standards of ethical or professional scholarly conduct.

**Appeal of Dismissal:**
A student who has been dismissed from the Graduate Division may appeal, in writing, to the Dean of the College within 15 days of date of dismissal. If student appeals to the Dean, the Dean has 15 days to respond. The Dean will either uphold or reverse the dismissal. If the Dean upholds the dismissal, student will be notified via letter of the effective dismissal date. Effective on the date of dismissal from the Graduate Division:

- Student will be terminated from Payroll.
- The dismissal will be noted on the graduate transcript.
- An MD-PhD student may be required to appear before the Committee on Student Promotions and Professional Standards for review of their status in the medical program.
- Access to the Einstein student email address will terminate immediately.

If the dismissal from the Dean is reversed, the student will continue on academic probation and be monitored by the Academic Affairs Committee.

**7) Withdrawal from the Program**

A student who chooses to discontinue their enrollment in the PhD or MD-PhD program for any reason during the academic year may withdraw from the Graduate Division. At least two weeks prior to withdrawal, the student must notify the Associate Dean and the Graduate Division Registrar (and MSTP Director, if applicable) of their intention to withdraw. At least one week prior to withdrawal, the student must submit a Withdrawal Form to the Graduate Division office, with all necessary signatures.

**Health Benefits following a Program Withdrawal**
Health insurance benefits will terminate on the last day of the month in which the withdrawal occurs. The student should confer with the Benefits Office prior to the date of withdrawal regarding their benefits.

**Housing following a Program Withdrawal**

a) A student who withdraws from the program vacate housing within thirty (30) days. Any other arrangements must be made directly with the Einstein Housing Office.
b) An MD-PhD student who is withdrawing from the MSTP, but remaining either in the PhD or MD program, should make any necessary arrangements directly with the Housing Office.

**Email Access following a Program Withdrawal**
Access to the Einstein student email address will terminate 30 days from the withdrawal date. It is important for the student to copy or download any material that he or she wishes to save as these materials will not be available when the email account terminates.

**Return to the Graduate Division after a Withdrawal**
Should a student desire to return to the Graduate Division following a withdrawal, the student may apply for readmission in the same manner as all other applicants (see Section II). As all prior academic progress will be reviewed by the Graduate Admissions Committee, readmission to the PhD program is by no means guaranteed. If the student is readmitted, advanced standing may be granted following review by the Associate Dean.
Section VIII: Thesis and Defense Guidelines

1) The Thesis Dissertation

The graduate Thesis, or Dissertation, is the all-encompassing document describing original research carried out by the graduate student in the laboratory. In general, the research has been structured to answer a question or group of questions, or to explore particular hypotheses, and has resulted in a body of novel data. The historical background, the scientific context of the experiments, and the data are presented and discussed extensively in the Dissertation. More guidelines for preparing the Dissertation can be found in the section titled, “Instructions for Preparing the Dissertation.”

Manuscript Requirement to Defend and to Graduate:
Students are required to publish at least one first-author paper from their original thesis research, or if not, to document and append to the Thesis, the final draft of a submitted first-author manuscript. The manuscript should be indicated as In press, or Submitted (and to which journal), or In revision (for which journal). Note: the chair of the Thesis Defense Committee will postpone the defense if the manuscript and proof of submission are not evident at the time the thesis is submitted to the committee. The thesis must be submitted to the committee at least three weeks prior to the date of defense.

It is not unusual for the thesis research to generate two to three publications in which the student is the leading author. However, a specific number of published manuscripts is not required and it is expected that some of the thesis research may be published following the thesis defense. A co-first authorship paper meets the requirement. All collaborative work that contributes to the Thesis Dissertation must be clearly indicated in the text. Each Chapter should indicate which publications (if any) are represented by the described work. All collaborative work that contributes to the Thesis Dissertation must be clearly indicated in the text.

2) The Thesis Defense Committee

Composition of the Thesis Defense Committee


The Thesis Defense Committee is selected by the student and the mentor and must:

- Consist of a minimum of five members.
  - At least four of the five members must be from the departments that comprise the Graduate Division.
  - One member must be designated as the Committee Chair who must be a senior member of the faculty (Professor or Associate Professor) and has had experience serving of a Thesis Defense Committee. The Chair does not have to be a member of the student's home department.
  - At least two members must hold a primary or secondary appointment in the student's home department.
  - Inclusion of an examiner from outside the institution with expertise in the area of the student's research is desirable, although the fifth member of the Committee may be an additional member of the basic science (or PCI) faculty. The external examiner must hold a current faculty position.
    - A former Einstein faculty member may serve on the Defense Committee if they are in emeritus or distinguished status, or hold a current faculty position elsewhere.
For students in the PCI department:

- At least one faculty member must have a primary or secondary appointment in a basic science department (other than PCI),
- At least one of the members on the defense committee must have had prior experience serving on a Thesis Defense Committee

- Each student is strongly encouraged to designate a sixth faculty member as an alternate in the event that an examiner cannot attend the Thesis Defense. **There must be five members present at the Thesis Defense.**

- The Thesis Defense Committee must consist of faculty members who are eligible to train graduate students (i.e. tenure-track faculty ranked Assistant Professor or higher). An Instructor, Associate, or faculty on the research track may not serve on the Thesis Defense Committee.

- The name of any Thesis Defense Committee member who was a collaborator with the student must be indicated by the check box on the submitted Thesis Defense Committee Form. A collaborator may not serve as Chair of the Thesis Defense Committee.

- The student's mentor and/or co-mentor cannot serve on the Thesis Defense Committee although the mentor and/or co-mentor are present at the Thesis Defense.

- If the student has an associate (contingent) mentor, this mentor cannot serve on the Thesis Defense Committee. An associate mentor is a basic science faculty member designated by the student and primary mentor to oversee the student's laboratory research while the primary mentor is physically no longer at Einstein or away on sabbatical.

If necessary, the Graduate Executive Committee will review, on an individual basis, any Thesis Defense Committee whose make up is not in line with these guidelines.

**Approval of the Thesis Defense Committee**

The Associate Dean for Graduate Programs must approve all Thesis Defense Committees. **At least two months prior to the scheduled defense date,** the student must submit to the Graduate Division office (Belfer 202)

- a completed Thesis Defense Committee Form,
- a full Curriculum Vitae (CV) and
- a copy of the Thesis Seminar Announcement.

The Thesis Defense Committee Form is available on the forms page of the Graduate Division website, and requires signatures from the student's Thesis Defense Committee Chair, Mentor, Department Chair and Department Administrator. International students on a student visa must have their Thesis Defense Committee Form approved by the Einstein Office of International Services (OIS).

Once the Thesis Defense Committee has been approved by the Associate Dean, the student, mentor(s) and Defense Committee Chair will be sent an email confirmation from the Graduate Division office.

All subsequent changes to the Thesis Defense Committee must be approved by the Associate Dean. In the event that changes in the committee must be made, and the Associate Dean is not available for consultation, the approval of the appropriate department chair should accompany the final report of the committee.

**Note:**

- Students must successfully complete all required coursework and the Qualifying Examination prior to submission of the Thesis Defense Committee Form.
- All defending students must attend the Thesis Defense Workshop on plagiarism and proper reference citation offered in September or October of each year.
Scheduling of the Thesis Defense

The Thesis Defense and Seminar are scheduled by the student, who is responsible for finding the rooms and confirming that all members of the Thesis Defense Committee can attend. The Thesis Seminar is usually scheduled immediately before the actual defense. The student's Department Administrator can assist with room reservations and drafting the Thesis Seminar Announcement. A copy of the Thesis Seminar Announcement must be submitted to the Graduate Division office with the Thesis Defense Committee Form.

All expenses related to the Thesis and Defense are the responsibility of the student's department. An honorarium is not appropriate and will not be provided by the Graduate Division.

Note: No Thesis Seminar or Defense is to be scheduled on official program holidays as indicated on the Graduate Division academic calendar (http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/calendar.aspx) and Department of Human Resources holiday calendar (http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/human-resources/work-holiday-schedule-information.html).

3) Submission of the Thesis Prior to the Defense

Four weeks prior to the defense: At least four weeks prior to the scheduled date of defense, the student must submit the signed Mentor Acknowledgement of the Thesis Document form to the Graduate Division office. The student is to retain copies of this acknowledgement for each member of their Thesis Defense Committee. (The Mentor Acknowledgement form is available further below in these Guidelines.)

For students in the department of Neuroscience, copy of the completed Thesis must be submitted to the chairman of the department of Neuroscience at least four weeks prior to the scheduled date of defense.

Three weeks prior to the defense: At least three weeks prior to the scheduled date of defense, a copy of the Thesis, along with a copy of the Mentor Acknowledgement form, must be submitted to each member of the Thesis Defense Committee.

Two weeks prior to the defense: A member of the Thesis Defense Committee may require a postponement of the Thesis Defense if this submission requirement is not met. Once the Thesis is received, within one week (i.e. two weeks prior to the defense) any Thesis Defense Committee member may request a pre-defense meeting of the Committee if, in the opinion of the Committee member, the Dissertation is not defensible.

Manuscript requirement to defend: Students are required to publish at least one first-author paper from their original thesis research, or if not, to document and append to the Thesis, the final draft of a submitted first-author manuscript. The manuscript should be indicated as In press, or Submitted (and to which journal), or In revision (for which journal). Note: the chair of the Thesis Defense Committee will postpone the defense if the manuscript and proof of submission are not evident at the time the thesis is submitted to the committee.

4) Conduct of the Thesis Defense

The purpose of the Thesis Defense is to demonstrate in an oral form the knowledge and skills acquired to carry out research that provides new information on a significant problem. The following are recommended guidelines for conducting the Thesis Defense:

The Thesis Seminar, whenever possible, should immediately precede the oral Defense.
Presentation of a public seminar
The presentation of a public seminar at the College of Medicine is required for successful completion of the PhD degree. This seminar also fulfills a New York State requirement that a PhD candidate demonstrate his or her ability to present scientific material in public. This seminar is usually presented immediately preceding the defense. A copy of the announcement of the seminar must be forwarded to the Graduate Division office for inclusion in the student's file. An announcement of the time, place and subject of the public seminar should be widely disseminated at the College of Medicine, and a draft copy of this announcement should be included with the Thesis Defense Committee form submitted to the Graduate Division office.

The Chair of the Defense Committee should be selected by the student and mentor, and must be a senior member of the faculty (see “Composition of the Thesis Defense Committee”). The Chair will have received the Thesis Defense Committee Report Form from the Graduate Division office and will bring this form to the defense. (The Defense Report Form is also available on the Graduate Division Forms webpage.) The Chair will identify to the group any members of the Defense Committee who have acted as a collaborator during the course of the student’s research, and will confirm that the manuscript submission requirement has been met.

At the commencement of the defense, the student should be excused and the Chair (and/or mentor) will then provide a profile of the student’s background, course work, and publication record.

The Chair, in consultation with the examiners, will then determine how the Thesis Defense will be conducted.

If any of the examiners expresses a serious concern with the content of the Thesis, a strategy should be developed whereby the questioning can address these concerns in a constructive manner.

The student will then be asked to return and the exam can commence. If a Thesis Seminar was not given immediately prior to the defense, the student should give a short (~10 minutes) synopsis of the major findings of his or her research.

It is strongly recommended that an external examiner be invited to the Thesis Defense. If an external examiner has been invited to participate in the Thesis Defense, it is recommended that this examiner be invited to commence the questioning period. Examiners will be allowed a ~10 min question period in turn, with the opportunity to have a second round of questioning. Alternatively, questions will be permitted to follow logically from the initial set of questions, with examiners sharing the examination period.

The mentor or co-mentors may be present during the Defense, but cannot ask questions, and are not expected to answer any questions for the student unless clarification is asked for from the examiners.

The Chair should ensure that the Defense is conducted in a professional manner, and that each examiner has the opportunity to ask questions. The Chair should also ensure that the length of the exam is appropriate. A typical exam period is one (1) to two (2) hours.

After the Chair has determined that the Defense is at an end, the mentor and the student are asked to leave the room. The Thesis Defense Committee vote is confidential and the mentor should leave the room together with the student during the voting procedure. The Defense is discussed, and a decision is made. The decision is determined by majority vote. If the vote is for “minor revision” then the grade is Pass and the mentor is usually given the responsibility of checking the final revised document. If the vote is for “major revision”, a member of the Defense Committee, or subcommittee, is usually assigned to review and accept the corrections on behalf of the Committee. A decision for “major revision” results in the grade of Conditional Pass (see below, “Evaluation of the Dissertation and the Thesis Defense”).

A Thesis Defense Report Form is available on the Graduate Division website (www.einstein.yu.edu/phd). When the examination is complete, the members of the Thesis Defense Committee will assign a grade and sign the report form.
By majority vote of the Committee, student can receive a grade of Pass, Conditional Pass or Fail for the examination. The Chair of the Committee, or the defending student, must return the completed original Thesis Defense Report Form to the Graduate Division office (Belfer 202) immediately following the oral defense.

Pass
The student has a maximum of three months from the date of defense to satisfy all additional requirements for PhD program completion. See section below on “Completion of All Requirements after the Thesis Defense.”

Note: the three months following a successful Thesis Defense is for the purpose of making final revisions to the Thesis.

Conditional Pass
A grade of Conditional Pass will require the student to complete extensive revisions of the Thesis as set forth by the Thesis Defense Committee. In addition to the Thesis Defense Report Form, the Chair must also submit a written summary outlining what revisions are necessary to the Thesis and recommendations for rectifying deficiencies in the Thesis.

In the event of a grade of Conditional Pass, the student has a maximum of five (5) weeks to revise the Thesis and submit it to the Thesis Defense Committee. The Committee then has three (3) weeks to review the revised Thesis and submit a final grade of Pass or Fail to the Graduate Division office. All Thesis deficiencies must be corrected and a final thesis defense grade provided within a maximum of two months from the date of defense.

If the student receives a final grade of Pass for the revised Thesis, the student must now submit the necessary paperwork for program completion as outlined below in the “Completion of All Requirements after the Thesis Defense” section of these guidelines. Note: The student has a maximum of three (3) months from the date of defense to satisfy all requirements for program completion following a grade of Conditional Pass.

Fail
The grade of Fail for the defense will lead to complete review of the student’s academic record and thesis defense by the Academic Affairs Committee. Re-defense is at the discretion of the Academic Affairs Committee who may call both student and mentor to appear at an AAC meeting. Should the student be allowed to re-defend, the student and mentor, working together with the Student Advisory Committee, must submit to the AAC and the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs a written plan for re-defense and completion of all requirements for the PhD degree. In some cases, the AAC may recommend dismissal from the PhD program. No PhD degree will be awarded in the event of dismissal.

6) Completion of All Requirements after Successful Thesis Defense

Absolutely Required for the PhD Degree

The following must be submitted to the student’s home department:

- Five copies of the final Thesis
  The diploma will not be granted if five copies of the final Thesis are not submitted. The five copies are to be printed on high quality 8.5”x11” paper (24 lb.) that is not punched or perforated in any way. Five original, signed title pages (with the signatures of the student and his/her thesis mentor, and co-mentor, if applicable) must also be submitted. The department will send out four copies of the final Thesis to be bound, which will eventually be distributed as follows: a bound copy to the student's thesis advisor; a bound copy for the student's home department; a bound copy to the student; and a bound copy for the D. Samuel Gottesman Library. One (unbound) copy of the Thesis will be used for microfilming (this copy will be returned to the student after microfilming).
• **Two copies of the Dissertation abstract** are required (for ProQuest purposes) for the microfilming copy of the Thesis.

• A signed and completed ProQuest Publishing Agreement Form. This agreement form is for microfilming and copyrighting of the Thesis.

• **Written permission from the copyright holders** if copyright material by the student (e.g. publications) or other authors, (e.g., tables, charts, pictures, etc.) are included in the Dissertation. Students must obtain permission to use previously copyrighted materials. For further copyright guidelines, go to [http://www.proquest.com/en-US/products/dissertations/copyright/](http://www.proquest.com/en-US/products/dissertations/copyright/).

The following must be submitted **to the Graduate Division office**:

• A copy of the signed **Thesis Title page**. (Student and mentor(s) signatures required.)

• A printed copy of the **Survey of Earned Doctorates Certificate of Completion**. The survey is to be completed online at [https://sed-ncses.org/GradDateRouter.aspx](https://sed-ncses.org/GradDateRouter.aspx).

• The **PhD Diploma Form** indicating the student’s legal name as it should appear on the PhD diploma.

• The **PhD Alumni Survey Form** providing a forwarding address and new contact information.

The following must be submitted **online to the Office of Student Affairs**:

• **Graduation Application Form** (to be completed online closer to the date of the commencement ceremony. Graduates will be notified via email when it is time to complete this required online form.)

An **MD-PhD student** who is moving on to the Wards after the defense must submit the necessary documents to their home department (as listed above) within 3 months of their date of defense. Also due within three months of the defense is the copy of the signed Thesis Title page to the Graduate Division office. The remaining Graduate Division paperwork and the Graduation Application for the Office of Student Activities are due closer to the MD-PhD student’s time of graduation. The student will be sent notices regarding their specific due dates in preparation for commencement.

**Change in Status after the Thesis Defense**

A student who has successfully defended the Thesis may remain enrolled in the Graduate Programs as an “active student” for up to a maximum period of three months from the date of defense (to make final revisions to the Thesis) if funding is available and the student and mentor agree to this arrangement, and if the student remains in the lab.

A student has a maximum of three months from the date of defense to submit all required paperwork for program completion.

A **student who has successfully defended the Thesis and has submitted all required paperwork for program completion and the PhD degree will no longer be an “active student” effective on the date all final paperwork is submitted.** If the student is to remain at the institution, the student’s status must be changed to that of “Postdoctoral Fellow.”

**Note:**

• The student must inform the Graduate Division Registrar’s Office (sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu) of 1) any changes in address or contact information, 2) plans to leave Einstein prior to submission of all required paperwork, or 3) plans to change status to Postdoc.

*Failure to inform the Graduate Office may jeopardize the student’s degree completion status.*

• No student should leave the institution without notifying the Graduate Division Registrar’s Office in advance.
In the event that a student leaves the institution (i.e. no longer on Einstein payroll) prior to completing all program requirements for the PhD degree, the student must apply for an unpaid Thesis Leave of Absence by submitting the Leave of Absence Form to the Graduate Division office (Belfer 202) prior to leaving the institution.

**Note:**
- A student on an unpaid Thesis Leave of Absence is no longer in active, full-time status and therefore no longer eligible for loan deferment.
- Medical benefits for a student on an unpaid Thesis Leave of Absence will terminate on the last day of the month in which the student is terminated from payroll.
- The Thesis Leave of Absence is allotted for a maximum of three (3) months from the date of defense.
- As a condition of maintaining student status, all international students must pursue a “full course of study.” The Thesis Leave of Absence is therefore not available to international students.

**Benefits:**
If a student is enrolled in the Einstein Student Health Plan, the plan will terminate on the last day of the month in which the student terminates from payroll. For more information, contact the Einstein Benefits Office.

**Housing:**
A student who resides in Einstein Housing must vacate housing within 30 days from the date all paperwork is submitted for program completion. Any other arrangements must be made directly with the Housing Manager.

**Change in Status for International Students**
An international student on a student visa, who intends to remain in the United States for further training after completing the PhD, must apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) at least three (3) months prior to the date of the Thesis Defense. Students are strongly advised to consult the Office of International Services (OIS) at Einstein well in advance of any anticipated change in status. Visa restrictions and requirements change frequently.

**Granting of the PhD Degree**
There are three (3) official PhD degree granting dates: the end of September, the end of January, and May (or June)—the date of the commencement ceremony. These dates are listed for each year on the Graduate Division academic calendar.

All academic requirements must be fulfilled on or before the deadline date for each of the official degree-granting dates as indicated on the academic calendar. This includes completion of all coursework and other departmental requirements, successful defense of the Thesis (Conditional Pass is not sufficient), completion of all revisions, deposit of five copies of the Thesis in the department office, and completion of all required paperwork.

Upon satisfaction of all requirements for the PhD degree, a letter certifying completion of all requirements for the PhD may be obtained from the Registrar at any time during the year.

Formal award of the actual PhD diploma will be made at the subsequent Albert Einstein College of Medicine Commencement Exercises. **All financial obligations to the College of Medicine must be met prior to the release of the diploma.** Students must clear their accounts with the Housing Office, the Library, and the Office of Student Finance in order to receive the actual PhD diploma.

**Participation in the Annual Commencement Ceremony**
**September and January Graduates:**
Students with a PhD degree date in September or January will be sent email notices from the Graduate Division Registrar’s Office and/or the Office of Student Activities regarding participation in the formal Commencement Ceremony held in May. These graduates will have a deadline (typically in January) to complete the required online Graduation Application form.
May Graduates:
All academic requirements must be fulfilled on or before the April deadline as published on the academic calendar in order to receive the May PhD degree-granting date and also participate in the Commencement Ceremony. This includes completion of all coursework and other departmental requirements, successful defense of the Thesis (Conditional Pass is not sufficient), completion of all revisions, deposit of five copies of the Thesis in the department office, and completion of all required paperwork, including the online Graduation Application. There will be no exceptions to this April deadline for a May PhD degree.

7) Instructions for Preparing the Dissertation

Two Dissertation formats are generally accepted by the Departments within the Graduate Division. Students must consult with the appropriate faculty in their Department to insure that their Dissertation format is acceptable by their Department. "Format A" is the traditional organization of a Dissertation. "Format B" is organized with each chapter corresponding to a published (or in preparation) journal article. However, it is emphasized that a collection of published papers cannot be submitted in place of a Dissertation. An improperly prepared Dissertation may be returned to the student by the Committee without review.

General Instructions
In general, successful theses range from 125 – 225 pages without references.

ii) Manual of Style: On points of style (including capitalization and punctuation) not covered by the above, follow the recommendations of your Department. The style selected should be adhered to strictly and consistently. If no style is preferred by the Department, the Manual for Writers of Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian, University of Chicago Press, should be used.

iii) Line Spacing: The text of the Dissertation is to be double-spaced except for indented quotations, footnotes, figures, legends and bibliography, which are to be single-spaced.

iv) Required font for text: Arial 11 pt.
    Helvetica 11 pt.
    Times New Roman 12 pt.

iv.) Paper: The final copies of the Dissertation are to be printed on 8 ½" x 11" high quality paper (24 lb.) that is not punched or perforated in any way.

    (a.) Copies submitted to the Thesis Defense Committee may be:

    1) duplicated on standard photocopy paper,
    2) printed double sided and,
    3) secured using either a three-hole binder or a spring binder.

v.) Pagination: Every paper in a Thesis is assigned a number typed on it. There are two series of page numbers. The first, in small Roman numerals, begins with the title page and ends with the last page preceding Chapter I. The second series, in Arabic numerals, begins with the first page of Chapter I and continues throughout the Dissertation, including graphs, illustrations, tables, bibliography and appendices.

vi.) Margins: The margins at the top, bottom and right are to be 1.0 inch; the left-hand margin is to be 1.5 inches. All tables, charts and illustrations are to have left-hand margins of no less than 1.5 inches because of binding requirements. Any over-sized material may be folded in from the right, top and bottom in such a way as to leave a 1.5-inch margin on the left side.

vii) Spelling: The spelling given in any standard dictionary may be used. However, whatever forms are adopted should be adhered to consistently throughout the text of the Dissertation.
viii.) Quotations: Quotations of more than three lines should be single-spaced, set off from the text in a separate paragraph and indented four spaces, with double-spacing between paragraphs. Opening and closing quotation marks are omitted. Quotations of three lines or less are enclosed in quotation marks and are run into the text.

ix.) Tables, Figures, Reproductions: The recommendations of the style manual are to be followed in preparing tables, figures and other graphic materials. Tables and Figures and all legends should be embedded into the document.

Tables are numbered consecutively throughout the Thesis. The word TABLE, followed by the appropriate Arabic numeral, is placed above the caption.

Figures are numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals, with the word "Figure" (only the first letter is capitalized) and the appropriate numeral appearing before the caption. If possible, figures should be oriented in the “portrait” configuration. Submitted figures should be of sufficiently high resolution to be interpreted by the reader. Figures may be embedded into the text, with text wrapped around, or embedded as separate pages. In either case, make sure that the Figure Legends are adjacent to the figures and easy to find and read.

x.) Digital media or jpeg for high resolution images may be submitted on an accompanying CD-ROM.

xi.) References and Footnotes: References to published articles should be cited by author and year (i.e. Student and Mentor, 1995, or Student et al., 1995). Every reference listed must appear in the bibliography (see below for "Bibliography").

Footnotes are to be placed at the foot of the page and numbered consecutively for each chapter.

The generally accepted Thesis formats (Formats A and B) are described below. The format chosen must be maintained throughout the Dissertation. Students must discuss with their mentor the Dissertation format acceptable to their Department.

FORMAT A

i.) Introduction: The comprehensive Dissertation begins with a scholarly introduction (Chapter I). This section should include a historical review of the student’s area of research followed by a critical evaluation of the current status of the field. The student should then present working hypotheses and give an introduction to the system and the thesis research. The student should consult with his or her mentor in order to agree upon how extensive a historical review is appropriate to the Dissertation.

ii.) Methods and Materials: The protocols and procedures used in the Dissertation studies should be presented in sufficient detail to allow reproduction of the experiments (Chapter II). A Dissertation provides an appropriate vehicle for experimental details that might be omitted from journal articles due to space limitations.

iii.) Results and Discussion: Chapters III …n of the Dissertation should present the results of the conducted studies followed by a discussion of their significance. The format for these chapters should follow that in the suggested manual of style or of a highly respected scientific journal, mutually agreed upon by the student and the mentor.

iv.) Conclusions: A Dissertation should end with a general discussion of the studies that have been conducted including an assessment of the significance of the research, arguments of interpretation, evaluation of material included in appendices, and a plan for the experimental resolution of unanswered questions.
FORMAT B

i.) *Introduction:* The comprehensive Dissertation begins with a scholarly introduction (Chapter I). This section should include a historical review of the student's area of research followed by a critical evaluation of the current status of the field. The student should then present working hypotheses and give an introduction to the system and the thesis research. The student should consult with his or her mentor in order to agree upon how extensive a historical review is appropriate to the Dissertation.

ii.) *Manuscripts:* The body of the Thesis should be in the form of manuscripts that have been or are ready to be submitted for publication in a scholarly journal. Note that the format and style requirements described above must be adhered to for each and every chapter of the Dissertation. Each manuscript will constitute a chapter and will include a brief Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, and Discussion. The candidate must be the first author of these manuscripts and must be responsible for their preparation. A footnote to the introduction must give bibliographic information for manuscript constituting the chapter. This information should include the full names of the authors, institutional affiliations, the journal and the status of the manuscript (i.e., submitted, published or in press).

iii.) *Separate Chapter for Unpublished Data:* If the student is not first author: One of several options may be appropriate in cases in which the student is not first author of a manuscript that is to be presented in the Dissertation as a chapter: 1) The student may extract his or her own work from the manuscript for presentation in the Dissertation; 2) The manuscript may be included as an appendix to the Dissertation; 3) The manuscript may be included as a chapter if the student was responsible for the preparation of a significant portion of the manuscript. For all multi-authored manuscripts, the exact contribution of the student should be stated in an introductory statement or footnote preceding each chapter or in the appendix. If figures from a multi-author manuscript are used, it is imperative to indicate which figures are the student's work and which represent the work of other authors. In all cases in which figures are used, appropriate acknowledgement must be given. In addition, any contributions of co-authors must also be specified in the acknowledgment section.

Wherever pertinent, coworkers and helpers and other contributors should be acknowledged in the body of the text.

iv.) *Conclusions:* A Dissertation should end with a general discussion of the studies that have been conducted including an assessment of the significance of the research, arguments of interpretation, evaluation of material included in appendices, and a plan for the experimental resolution of unanswered questions.

*The following sections of the Dissertation are common to both formats:*

i.) *Title Page:* The title page is to list at the top the title of the Dissertation, student's full name and signature, the full name and title of the Thesis mentor (and Co-mentor, if applicable). At the bottom of the title page, the following statement should be included:

"Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate Division of Medical Sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York, (month and year)."

The month and year given on the title page is when the final Dissertation (Thesis document) is submitted, not the date of the defense. A sample title page is shown at the end of this Section.

ii.) *Abstract:* The abstract of the Dissertation is to include: a hypothesis, the procedures followed, the significant results and the general conclusions. The abstract is to be presented on a separate page headed with the word ABSTRACT in capital letters centered on the page. On the next line is the title of the Dissertation. The following line is the full name of the student. The length of the abstract must not exceed 750 words.
iii.) **Acknowledgments**: This feature is not required, but offers a convenient opportunity to express the writer's appreciation to persons who have been especially helpful or to the publishers of materials from which data have been drawn and to whomever else acknowledgment should be given. The appropriate training or research grants should also be acknowledged in the Dissertation.

iv.) **Table of Contents**: The table of contents should list the chapters or other division headings of the Dissertation, using the same words that appear in the body of the report. The numbers of the pages on which these items appear should also be given. The table of contents is to be followed by separate page listings for tables and for figures and illustrations.

v.) **Bibliography**: The format for the references included in the bibliography should follow that in the suggested manual of style or a highly respected scientific journal. At a minimum, each reference must include the names of all authors, the title of the article, the name of the journal, the volume number and the pages of the article. Titles of articles must be included. The bibliographies of the Dissertation may be compiled for each chapter separately or together at the end of the Dissertation, at the discretion of the mentor and the student.

vi.) **Supplementary Materials and Methods**: It may be appropriate for a more extensive presentation of Materials and Methods to be given in an appendix where it may be helpful to other investigators who wish to utilize procedures developed by the candidate. The candidate may also wish to include as appendix material more detailed presentations of data than appropriate for a scholarly journal or thesis.

vii.) **List of Abbreviations**: A full and complete list of all abbreviations used in the text must be included.

vii.) **Appendix**: The appendix may include but is not limited to:

- Published papers – reprints, and/or submitted manuscripts. Published articles and/or submitted manuscripts must be included in the Thesis Appendix; printed PDFs are sufficient. The Appendix pages may be separately numbered, if desired. The page numbering in the Appendix does not continue from the Thesis page numbering.
- Drafts of manuscripts expected to be submitted shortly
- Surveys of patient or other data
- High resolution figures
- Computer programs

8) Including Published Work in the Thesis

Students are strongly encouraged to submit their Dissertation studies for publication in peer-reviewed journals during the course of their studies. In order to fulfill copyright obligations, papers published by graduate students before the Thesis Defense, that are intended to be included in the Dissertation, should carry the footnote:

“Data in this paper are from a thesis to be submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate Division of Medical Sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University”.

All publications for which the student is first author should be appended to the submitted Thesis. Published articles and/or submitted manuscripts must be included in the Thesis Appendix. Co-first author publications are allowed. If there are no first-author publication at the time of Thesis submission, a submitted first-author manuscript must be appended, even if this draft ultimately requires additional experimental results. The manuscript should be written in the style of a specific (indicated) journal.
Copyright Permissions

Students must obtain permission to use previously copyrighted materials. For further copyright guidelines, go to http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/thesis.aspx or contact the Einstein Reference Librarians.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. All documents prepared as part of a student’s academic or research activities should be free of plagiarism. This includes, but is not limited to, written examinations in classes, Qualifying Exam proposals, Thesis proposals, fellowship applications, manuscripts, and the PhD Thesis.
9) Mentor acknowledgement form

Mentor Acknowledgement of the Thesis Document

I, ________________________________ have read the Thesis document of
                                      (mentor name)

                                      ___________________________ and approve the submission of this Thesis document
                                      (student name)

to the Thesis Defense Committee.

__________________________________________________________________________  __________
Mentor Signature                  Date
10) Sample title page for doctoral dissertation

AN EVOLUTIONARY VIEW OF THE MYC NETWORK IN GROWTH CONTROL AND DIFFERENTIATION

by

Nicole Schreiber Agus

Candidate: ____________________________   Thesis Advisor: ____________________________

Signature

Nicole Schreiber Agus   Ronald A. DePinho, M.D.
Name   Name

Associate Professor of
Microbiology and Immunology
Title

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate Division of Medical Sciences

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Yeshiva University
New York
June 1, 1994

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Section IX: Vacation and Leaves of Absence

1) Vacation and Holidays

First year students may take vacation only during the winter and spring holidays as posted on the Graduate Division Academic Calendar—consult the academic calendar posted on the Graduate Division website. Students may not schedule time off during class or exam periods—consult the course syllabus and/or course leader.

Students who have completed at least twelve (12) months in the program may receive stipends during the normal period of vacation and holidays observed by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. (Visit the Human Resources website for a list of Einstein holidays: www.einstein.yu.edu/hr/working-at-einstein/). It is anticipated that students will take two (2) weeks’ vacation time each year, exclusive of the winter and spring holidays as posted on the Graduate Division Academic Calendar (http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/calendar.aspx). All time off should be scheduled in consultation with the mentor.

2) Leaves of Absence

The Graduate Division follows the NIH Training Grant Guidelines (NOT-OD-16-105) with respect to leaves.

Students must submit a Leave of Absence Form to the Graduate Division office prior to going on leave, and must submit a Return from Leave of Absence Form at the end of the leave. These forms are available on the Graduate Division Forms web page: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/phd/current-students/graduate-forms.aspx

Leaves of absence must be approved in advance by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

A student who is absent from courses or the laboratory without notice may be subject to disciplinary actions, including dismissal from the program.

Note: A student who fails to re-matriculate following the expiration of a leave of absence will be officially withdrawn from the Graduate Division.

Parental Leave

A student may receive stipends for up to a maximum of sixty (60) calendar days (inclusive of Saturday and Sunday; equivalent to eight (8) work weeks) of parental leave per year for the adoption or the birth of a child. Either parent is eligible for parental leave. Parental leave must be scheduled in consultation with the mentor. A student must provide advanced notification of the leave by completing and submitting a Leave of Absence Form to the Graduate Division office prior to going on leave.

Health Insurance and Housing while on Parental Leave

Health insurance benefits will continue during the time of parental leave. The student may remain in housing and is required to continue paying rent.

Extension of Parental Leave (Unpaid)

A student requiring an extension of parental leave longer than sixty (60) calendar days must seek approval from the mentor and Associate Dean (and MSTP Director, if applicable) for an unpaid leave of absence prior to the original anticipated date of return. The student must submit an amended Leave of Absence Form with a doctor’s note. (The extended leave is an unpaid medical leave of absence.)
International Students: Due to visa requirements, an international student is eligible for parental leave only upon approval of the Office of International Services and with written doctor’s recommendation.

Sick Leave

A student may receive stipends for a maximum of fifteen (15) calendar days (inclusive of Saturday and Sunday; equivalent to two (2) work weeks) of sick leave per year. A Leave of Absence Form need not be submitted to the Graduate Division office prior to going on sick leave. The student must communicate with the mentor when on sick leave.

Health Insurance and Housing while on Sick Leave

Health insurance benefits will continue during the time of sick leave. The student may remain in housing and is required to continue paying rent.

Extension of Sick Leave

A student requiring an extension of sick leave longer than fifteen (15) calendar days must seek approval from the mentor and Associate Dean (and MSTP Director, if applicable) for an unpaid medical leave of absence. The student must submit a Leave of Absence Form with a doctor’s note to the Graduate Division office.

Medical Leave of Absence (Unpaid)

The Associate Dean (and MSTP Director, if applicable) may allow a student to be placed on a temporary unpaid medical leave of absence in case of prolonged illness or other medical emergency. This leave may also be appropriate in the case of chronic physical or mental illness. (Pregnancy and childbirth are covered by parental leave as stated above.) At the beginning of a medical leave of absence, the student must submit a Leave of Absence Form accompanied by a doctor’s note. The maximum amount of time allowed for an unpaid medical leave of absence is six (6) months.

Health Insurance and Housing while on a Medical Leave of Absence

Health insurance benefits will continue for up to six (6) months, although it is important for the student to contact the Benefits Office prior to or immediately after taking the leave. A student on a medical leave of absence may remain in student housing for up to six (6) months and must continue to pay rent during that time.

International Students: Due to visa requirements, an international student is eligible for medical leave upon approval of the Office of International Services and written doctor’s recommendation.

Bereavement Leave

If a member of the immediate family dies, a student may receive a paid leave of absence for up to five (5) days. These days are to be taken consecutively within a reasonable time of the date of the death or funeral, and may not be split or postponed. Health insurance benefits and housing will continue while a student is on bereavement leave. A Leave of Absence Form does not have to be submitted for this type of leave. However, if the student needs more time for funeral or other arrangements, the student may request vacation time or a personal (unpaid) leave of absence in which case a Leave of Absence Form must be submitted to the Graduate Division office.

Academic or Personal Leave of Absence (Unpaid)

The Associate Dean (and MSTP Director, if applicable) may grant an unpaid academic or personal leave of absence for a period up to a maximum of six (6) months. This may be considered appropriate if the student is experiencing academic problems in courses or laboratory research based on personal issues, conflicts, or the need for counseling beyond normal tutoring. This is an unpaid leave. The Graduate Division assumes no financial commitment during the
academic or personal leave of absence. At the beginning of an academic or personal leave of absence, the student must submit a Leave of Absence Form to the Graduate Division office.

Health Insurance and Housing while on an Academic or Personal Leave of Absence:
Prior to starting an academic or personal leave of absence, the student must consult with the Benefits Office regarding continuation of health insurance.

A student on academic or personal leave may remain in housing for up to six (6) months and rent payments must be maintained during the leave of absence.

International Students: As a condition of maintaining student status, all international students must pursue a “full course of study.” The academic or personal leave of absence is not available to international students.

Thesis Leave of Absence
If a student, who has successfully defended the thesis, separates from Einstein prior to completing all program requirements for the PhD degree, the student must apply for an unpaid Thesis Leave of Absence. Student must submit a completed Leave of Absence form to the Graduate Office (Belfer 202) prior to leaving the institution.

The maximum amount of time allotted for a thesis leave of absence is three months from the date of defense.

A student on a thesis leave of absence is no longer in active, full-time status and therefore no longer eligible for loan deferment.

Health Insurance and Housing while on a Thesis Leave of Absence
Medical benefits for a student on an unpaid thesis leave of absence will terminate on the last day of the month in which the student is terminated from payroll.

International Students: As a condition of maintaining student status, all international students must pursue a “full course of study.” The thesis leave of absence is not available to international students.

3) Return from Leave of Absence
A student who wishes to return from a leave of absence must:
- At least two weeks prior to the anticipated date, confirm the anticipated return date with the mentor and the Graduate Division Registrar (sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu)
- On the date of return, notify the Graduate Division Registrar by email (sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu) so that student status can be updated, and
- Within three days of return from leave, submit a completed Return from Leave of Absence form, with all necessary signatures, to the Graduate Office (Belfer 202).

Return from Parental, Academic or Personal Leave of Absence
Student must notify the mentor and the Graduate Division Registrar and submit the Return from Leave form as noted above.

Return from Medical Leave of Absence
Student must notify the mentor and the Graduate Division Registrar and submit the Return from Leave form as noted above. In addition, a student who wishes to return from a medical leave of absence must submit a doctor’s note accompanying the Return from Leave of Absence form certifying that the student is well enough to return to their responsibilities as a full-time graduate student.
4) Failure to Return from a Leave of Absence

Once the period of leave time is expired, and the student does not wish to return to the program (i.e. active student status), the student will have the option to withdraw from the program by notifying the Graduate Division Registrar (sgregistrar@einstein.yu.edu) within 14 calendar days prior to the leave expiration date. The “official withdrawal” will be recorded on the student’s permanent graduate transcript.

If the student does not contact or notify the Graduate Division Registrar within 14 calendar days of leave expiration date, the student will be withdrawn. The “official withdrawal” will be recorded on the student’s permanent graduate transcript.
Section X: Graduate Division Policies on Conduct

1) Policy on Research Misconduct

The Einstein College of Medicine expects that all members of the academic community will display the highest personal integrity and conduct themselves according to accepted ethical standards in every aspect of their professional lives. Dishonesty in the academic arena can neither be accepted nor ignored by students and faculty of the College and it is their joint responsibility to see that the highest standards of conduct are upheld.

The following definition of “research misconduct” from the College’s policy on Research Misconduct (http://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/policies.asp) will be used to evaluate whether a student’s research activities constitute scientific misconduct.

“Research misconduct” includes fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or reporting research results. Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Instances of suspected research misconduct involving laboratory research by students will be considered in accord with the College’s policy on Research Misconduct of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Suspected research misconduct may also be referred by the Associate Dean to the Academic Affairs Committee who can request written and/or oral explanations on the matter and make recommendations to the Associate Dean regarding the research misconduct.

Responsible Conduct of Research

Every student enrolled in the Graduate Division is required to complete the NIH mandated training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). The Graduate Division provides such training via RCR courses offered each year. The course is mandatory for all students in the 1st year and again in the 5th year of the program. Each student must attend every class session and every small group session in order to be certified as having completed training in the RCR. If a student misses a class or small group session, the student is required to complete make-up assignments. If these assignments are not completed, the student will receive a grade of Incomplete (I) and will be required to register for the course and attend the missed class and/or small group session the following Block in which the course is next offered. If a student receives consecutive grades of Incomplete in RCR, the student will be placed on academic probation by the Academic Affairs Committee.

2) Policy on Professional Misconduct

The Graduate Division requires at all times the highest standards of professional conduct. Professional misconduct includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism or cheating in academic courses offered by the Graduate Division and by the Medical School, fabrication or falsification of academic work or data, intentionally damaging or interfering in the academic activities of other members of the College of Medicine, or assisting others in any of these acts and the failure to meet generally accepted standards of personal integrity and professional conduct. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior toward colleagues, faculty, or other College staff may constitute professional misconduct.

Expected professional conduct also includes respectful behavior towards others, timely responses to emails and requests for information, and other communication.
Instances of professional misconduct by students (that do not fall within the guidelines of research misconduct) will be considered in accord with the Policy on Professional Conduct. The Associate Dean will have primary responsibility for determining the appropriate venue for investigation of alleged misconduct, and seeing that the allegations are thoroughly and fairly investigated.

A student who is unsure of whether their actions, or those of others, constitute professional misconduct should consult with their mentor, department chair, Associate Dean, Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program or the Director of the Graduate Division. Ignorance of the standards of professional conduct will not exonerate a student from responsibility for their actions.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. All documents prepared as part of a student’s academic or research activities should be free of plagiarism. This includes but is not limited to written examinations in classes, Qualifying Exam proposals, thesis proposals, fellowship applications, manuscripts, and the PhD thesis. Plagiarism or cheating may result in dismissal from the Graduate Division.

For in-class or take-home examinations in graduate courses, unless otherwise clearly stated in the instructions for the particular examination, it is fully expected that the student will work alone and without any assistance from other students or sources.

Plagiarism or cheating may result in dismissal from the Graduate Division.

### 3) Suspension Due to Research or Professional Misconduct

In the case of serious research misconduct, professional misconduct or serious concern for the health or safety of a student or any other person or College facility, the Associate Dean may (upon consultation with those Directors, mentors, and College officials deemed appropriate and informed) suspend a student immediately, pending further consideration by the appropriate and informed administrative staff, wherein a recommendation can be made for subsequent return to status, return to leave, or dismissal from the program.

### 4) Academic Affairs Committee Review on Research or Professional Misconduct

Either the student(s) or faculty involved in the incident or allegation may request a review by the Academic Affairs Committee in accordance with the procedure described below. Allegations that have no clear relation to academic performance or behavior may be handled directly through the Associate Dean, who will consult with appropriate and informed individuals and staff.

1. Allegations of research or professional misconduct are to be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean and must be sufficiently specific to provide a factual basis for investigation. Anonymous allegations are not acceptable.

2. A preliminary evaluation of an allegation will be made by the Associate Dean in consultation with the Director and Associate Director of the Graduate Division, and/or the Director of the MSTP (if applicable), and the Academic Affairs Committee chair to determine whether the allegation falls within the purview of this policy and is sufficiently substantive to warrant investigation.
3. If it is determined that a review by the Academic Affairs Committee will proceed, the student will be promptly notified in writing by the chair of the AAC of the nature and details of the allegation. The student will be advised of the procedures set forth herein and of the right to the advice of an advocate from the College of Medicine.

4. The review of the allegations of research or professional misconduct will be promptly conducted. The Associate Dean may appoint an ad hoc subcommittee, which will report to the Academic Affairs Committee. Members of the Academic Affairs Committee for whom there exists, or is perceived to exist, a conflict of interest will be excused from the review. The ad hoc subcommittee shall not include any member of the faculty where any conflict of interest exists or is perceived to exist. In addition to, or alternatively, the Associate Dean may request a review of the case from the Medical School Committee on Promotions and Professional Standards, which may make recommendations. These recommendations are not binding and may or may not be followed by the Associate Dean and/or the Academic Affairs Committee in determining the final disposition of the allegation.

5. The Academic Affairs Committee (or the ad hoc subcommittee) will attempt to obtain written and oral evidence from all sources the Committee determines to be appropriate and that it requires to evaluate the alleged misconduct. The review is not bound by the formal rules of evidence. The accused student may examine all the evidence against him/her and respond to the evidence. The student may present the facts of his/her case, provide witnesses to testify on his or her behalf, may be advised by a person from the College of Medicine, but may not have an attorney present at the review.

6. After reviewing the evidence the Academic Affairs Committee will provide a recommendation to the Associate Dean, who will decide the matter and prepare a written decision. A copy of the decision will be given to the student.

7. An appeal of the decision of the Associate Dean may be made to the Dean of the Medical School in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days.

**MD-PhD Students**

All MD-PhD students are subject to the above described Graduate Division policies on misconduct. In the case of professional misconduct, the MD-PhD student may also be referred to the Medical School’s Committee on Student Promotions and Professional Standards and the Associate Deans of Student Affairs for review.

**5) Policy on Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment**

**Unlawful Discrimination or Harassment:** The Einstein College of Medicine has adopted a policy of zero tolerance with respect to discriminatory practices and harassment of any kind as being antithetical both to the academic values of the College and the need for a work environment that is free from even the appearance of unlawful discrimination or harassment, or coercion. Unlawful discrimination or harassment in any form is a violation of College policy.

Unlawful discrimination or harassment includes discrimination or harassment based on race, religion, color, creed, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship status, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, veteran or disabled veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic predisposition/carrer status, or any other characteristic that is protected by any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation.

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment refers to any unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, physical, demonstrative, or electronic conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or educational experience; or
2) Submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for a decision regarding an employment, academic, or other University-related activity affecting such individual; or

3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance or participation in a University program, department or extra-curricular activity; or

4) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, learning, studying, or school environment.

Detailed description of the College’s Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, including more information on sexual harassment, can be found here: [http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/policies.asp](http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/policies.asp).

Information regarding the College’s stance on romantic or sexual relationships between College employees and students, via the policy on **workplace romance and fraternization** is available here: [http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/human-resources/policies-and-procedures.html](http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/human-resources/policies-and-procedures.html)

The University’s Title IX Coordinator should be contacted if a member of the University community or an applicant believes an act of unlawful discrimination or harassment is occurring. See Appendix V for contact information.

Questions regarding the application of Title IX can be referred to HHS OCR (US Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights). [https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html)
Appendix I: Department-Specific Course Requirements and Course Recommendations

General Graduate Division Course Requirements:
PhD students who entered the program in 2013 onward must successfully complete a minimum of 21 graduate course credits to be granted the PhD degree upon the successful defense of their thesis.

MD-PhD students who entered the program in 2013 onward must successfully complete a minimum of 18 graduate course credits to be granted the PhD degree upon the successful defense of their thesis.

All students must successfully complete the Qualifying Examination for advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree, and the NIH mandated course, Responsible Conduct of Research.

All PhD students must successfully complete the first-year course on becoming a scientist.

Each department within the Graduate Division has its own set of required or recommended graduate courses. Course credits earned by successfully completing the department-specific courses do count towards satisfying the program course credit requirements. In addition to the department-specific courses, students are encouraged to take additional courses more relevant to their research interests.

Please note that the requirement for all students to successfully complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course is in addition to any departmental course requirements (i.e. RCR does not count towards the required number of course credits for the program).

Departments

I. Department of Anatomy & Structural Biology
II. Department of Biochemistry
III. Department of Cell Biology
IV. Department of Developmental & Molecular Biology
V. Department of Genetics
VI. Department of Microbiology & Immunology
VII. Department of Molecular Pharmacology
VIII. Department of Neuroscience
IX. Department of Pathology
X. PhD in Clinical Investigation (PCI)
XI. Department of Physiology & Biophysics
XII. Department of Systems & Computational Biology

Please note that departments may require participation in other departmental activities, such as journal clubs, WIP (work-in-progress) seminars and retreats. Additional departmental specific information may be obtained by contacting the relevant Graduate Executive Committee representative or the Departmental Graduate Committee.

Listed below are specific departmental course requirements and recommendations.
I. Anatomy and Structural Biology (ASB)

ASB requires successful completion of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Molecular Cell Biology, and
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher I.

Recommended courses:
- Histology and Cell Structure
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher II, III.

II. Biochemistry (BC)

BC requires successful completion of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix, and
- Human Metabolism: Regulation and Disease.

III. Cell Biology (CB)

CB strongly recommends successful completion of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Molecular Genetics,
- Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix,
- Molecular Cell Biology,
- Stem Cells, Development and Disease, and/or
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher I and II.

IV. Developmental and Molecular Biology (DMB)

DMB requires successful completion of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Molecular Genetics,
- Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix, and
- Molecular Cell Biology.

V. Genetics (GENE)

GENE strongly recommends successful completion of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Molecular Genetics,
- Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix, and/or
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher I.

VI. Microbiology & Immunology (M&I)

M&I requires successful completion of at least two of the following graduate courses:
- Biochemistry,
- Molecular Genetics,
- Gene Expression: Beyond the Double Helix, and/or
- Molecular Cell Biology;  
And **requires** the successful completion of **at least one** of the following graduate courses:  
- Immunology, and/or  
- Viruses.

**VII. Molecular Pharmacology (MP)**

MP **requires** successful completion of the following graduate course:  
- Molecular Approaches to Drug Action and Design.

**VIII. Neuroscience (NS)**

NS **requires** successful completion of the following graduate courses:  
- Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience,  
- Developmental Neuroscience, and  
- Systems Neuroscience.

**IX. Pathology (PATH)**

PATH **requires** successful completion of the following graduate courses:  
- Biochemistry, and  
- Mechanisms of Disease (also required for MD-PhD students in PATH)

**X. PhD in Clinical Investigation (PCI)**

PCI **requires** successful completion of the following graduate courses:  
- Clinical Research Intensive,  
- Multivariable Regression, and  
- Epidemiologic Research Methods.

The following courses are strongly **recommended**:  
- Year 1: Design and Conduct of Clinical Research (strongly recommended for those without clinical research experience)  
- Year 2 and beyond: Further methodologically or analytically-oriented course work specific to each trainee, to be determined by program directors and mentors

**XI. Physiology and Biophysics (P&B)**

There are two tracks of study for students in the Physiology and Biophysics department.

P&B Biophysics track **requires** successful completion of the following graduate courses:  
- Biochemistry,  
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher I and II, and  
- Molecular Biophysics for the Life Sciences.

P&B Physiology track **requires** successful completion of the following graduate courses:  
- Biochemistry,  
- Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher I and II,  
- Membrane Physiology and Transport,
• MSTP Cardiac Physiology, and
• Renal, Respiratory, and Acid-Base Physiology.

XII. Systems and Computational Biology (SCB)

SCB requires successful completion of the following graduate courses:
• Introduction to Systems Biology: Theory and Case Studies, and
• Systems Biology Seminar.

Strongly recommended graduate courses:
• Quantitative Skills for the Biomedical Researcher.
Appendix II: Medical Scientist Training Program (MD-PhD) Requirements

Graduate Division Program Course Requirements

MD-PhD students must successfully complete a minimum of 18 graduate course credits to be granted a PhD degree upon successful defense of their thesis. It is expected that during the first year MD-PhD students complete at least four (4) to six (6) course credits per Block and a minimum of 18 course credits. Each student will usually take two graduate courses in Blocks I and II including Biochemistry and Responsible Conduct of Research and elective course of their choice, and one or two graduate courses in Block III.

MD-PhD students are required to successfully complete the following graduate courses:

- Biochemistry
- Histology and Cell Structure
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Membrane Physiology & Transport
- MSTP Cardiac Physiology
- MSTP Mechanisms of Disease
- Renal, Respiratory and Acid-Base Physiology

Note: Course credits for Histology and Cell Structure, MSTP Mechanisms of Disease, and Responsible Conduct of Research do not count towards the 18 graduate course credit requirement for MD-PhD students.

Responsible Conduct of Research: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandates that all predoctoral fellows in NIH supported training programs satisfy the requirement for formal training in the responsible conduct of research. All MD-PhD students must complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course usually in the first year. Additional training to comply with the NIH requirement for periodic refresher training occurs at the MSTP retreat.

Master’s Credit

If an MD-PhD student enters the program with a Master of Science or Master of Arts degree from a relevant scientific discipline, the student may apply for "Master’s credit." If the request is approved, the student will be granted three (3) credits towards the program course credit requirement; the student must successfully complete 15 course credits to satisfy the program course requirements. A student may apply for Master’s credit by completing and submitting to the Graduate Division office the Request for Credit for Prior Master’s Degree Form which is available on the Graduate Division’s forms webpage. Appropriate documentation of conferral of the Master’s degree is required with submission of the form.

Course Exemptions and Transfer of Credit

An MD-PhD student may be granted exemption for graduate course(s) if they have successfully completed similar graduate course(s) in their previous training. The determination of whether to grant an exemption for graduate level courses taken at other institutions (including courses taken at foreign institutions) will be decided by the Associate Dean or Program Director, who acts upon the recommendation of the course leader for which exemption is being sought. An exempted course is not counted towards the minimum required course credit of 18 and therefore, another graduate course must be taken in its place.

Transfer credit may be granted for graduate course(s) taken at a prior institution if that course is deemed equivalent to a current Einstein graduate course as recommended by the current graduate course leader. No more than two graduate courses can be approved for “transfer credit” and no additional credit will be applied if the student is afforded the “Master’s credit.” (In this case, only exemptions apply.)

An MD-PhD student wishing to receive credit for graduate courses taken at another institution while enrolled as an Einstein student must receive the written approval of the Program Director and the Associate Dean. Note: the maximum number of graduate courses that can be taken outside the College of Medicine and funded by the Graduate
Division is limited to two per student. Credit hours for no more than two outside courses may be used toward satisfying the course credit requirements.

To apply for a course exemption or transfer credit, the student must present the syllabus and related course information, for the course leader to determine equivalency. The student must present evidence of successful completion of the course requirements (i.e., an official grade on their transcript) to receive an exemption or transfer credit.

**Departmental-specific Course Requirements**

In addition to the Graduate Division program course requirements, MD-PhD students must complete their department-specific course requirements. (See Appendix I: Department-specific Course Requirements.) A waiver from a department-specific course may be granted by the department chair.

**MD Course Requirements**

During the first year of the MSTP, students will take the following medical school classes: *Unit 2 of Molecular and Cellular Foundations of Medicine (MCFM-2, Immunology)*, *Pharmacology*, and the second half of the *Renal Systems* course (*Pathophysiology/Pathology*). In addition, first year MD-PhD students are expected to take *MSTP Anatomy* and required Physical Examination sessions in *Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM)*. The following first year medical school courses are optional for MD-PhD students: *Histology*, *MCFM (except Unit 2 – Immunology)*, *ICM-A, ICM-B* (except required physical exam sessions), *Biomedical Ethics 1, Epidemiology, Population Health and Evidence-based Medicine 1 (EPHEM 1)*, *Cardiovascular Physiology, Disease Mechanisms*, and the first half of *Renal Systems (Renal Physiology)*.

During the second year of the MSTP, students take the entire second year medical school curriculum with the second-year medical school class of students. MD-PhD students are expected to take the USMLE Step 1 exam by June 15, prior to beginning their thesis research. Students may take the USMLE Step 1 exam after June 15 only with permission of the Program Director and the Office of Student Affairs. Students may perform one clinical clerkship before starting their PhD thesis research. If they chose to perform a clerkship, they must complete the USMLE Step 1 exam by the MD student deadline.

**MD 3rd and 4th Year Clerkships and Sub-internships**

MSTP students must complete clinical clerkships in Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery, Family Medicine must be completed if a student plans to train or practice in California at any stage in their career. MSTP students must also complete two months of sub-internships. MSTP students may do clinical electives prior to completing the required clerkships. MSTP students are exempted from the Patients, Doctors, and Communities (PDC) third year course. Clerkships in Geriatrics, Radiology, Neurology, and Ambulatory Care are optional for MSTP students. The PhD thesis replaces the medical school required Scholarly Paper.

**Laboratory Rotations**

The goal of laboratory rotations is to identify a mentor(s) in whose research group the student will perform their thesis research project. An MD-PhD student will generally perform one laboratory rotation during the summer prior to their first year in the MSTP. An additional rotation (or two) will be performed during the summer between the first and second year in the program. With permission from the Program Director, an MD-PhD student may perform the rotation(s) between the first and second year in the same lab as their first rotation if the student plans to perform their thesis research with that mentor. All MD-PhD students must perform at least one laboratory rotation. In rare cases, with permission of the Program Director, an MD-PhD student may perform an additional rotation following completion of the second year and the USMLE Step 1 exam. MD-PhD students must obtain permission from the Program Director for their laboratory rotation choices.
Thesis Laboratory and Department Declaration

*MD-PhD students must obtain permission from the MSTP Director prior to declaring a thesis laboratory.* An MD-PhD student must satisfy all the requirements of their declared department, including course requirements, and other departmental activities as stipulated by the department.

Qualifying Examination

MD-PhD students are expected to take the Qualifying Exam during the third year on the program with the same deadlines and requirements as all students in the Graduate Division. See Section VI of these Policies for the Qualifying Examination Guidelines.

Thesis Defense

An MD-PhD student must have successfully defended their PhD Thesis before the student will be certified to go onto the clinical part of their training.

The PhD degree is officially granted on the same date as the MD degree.

See Section VIII of these Policies for the Thesis and Defense Guidelines.

MSTP – Program Requirements and Expectations

Predoctoral Fellowship Application

All students in the MSTP are expected to apply for a predoctoral fellowship before they complete their 48th month in the program. In general, this should be an application for an NIH F30 or F31 fellowship, but it could also be a foundation fellowship. In extenuating circumstances, exemptions from this requirement can be made by the Program Director.

MSTP Retreat

MD-PhD students must attend the MSTP retreat unless granted an exemption by the Program Director. The medical school Office of Student Affairs will arrange for MSTP students to be excused from medical school classes and clinical activities to attend the retreat.

Required MSTP Conference Attendance

- Incoming first year MSTP students must attend the MSTP Summer Series Seminars
- First year MSTP students are expected to attend Friday lunches with the Program Director
- All MSTP students are welcome to attend the monthly Clinical Pathological Conferences and Career Dinners. All fourth year MSTP students must attend the Clinical Pathological Conferences. All fifth-year students must attend the Career Dinners
- If unable to attend a required session, students must contact the supervising program faculty member

Bylaws and Policies Applicable to MSTP Students

All applicable rules, requirements, standards of professionalism, academic integrity, and performance expectations of both the medical school and Graduate Division apply to MSTP students throughout their time in the MSTP. Throughout their time in the MSTP, students are subject to both the Graduate Division Academic Policies and Guidelines and to the medical school Bylaws on Student Promotions and Professional Standards (https://www.einstein.yu.edu/docs/education/student-affairs/CSPPS-bylaws.pdf).
Appendix III: AAMC’s Compact between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Advisors

AAMC: Association of American Medical Colleges

These guiding principles, known as the Compact Between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors, are intended to support the development of a positive mentoring relationship between the pre-doctoral student and their research advisor. A successful student-mentor relationship requires commitment from the student, mentor, graduate program, and institution. This document offers a set of broad guidelines which are meant to initiate discussions at the local and national levels about the student-mentor relationship.

The Compact was prepared by the AAMC Group on Graduate Research, Education, and Training (GREAT) and is modeled on the AAMC Compact Between Postdoctoral Appointees and Their Mentors, available at www.aamc.org/postdoccompact. Input on this document was received from the GREAT Group Representatives and the members of the AAMC governance. The document was endorsed by the AAMC Executive Council on September 25, 2008. In 2016, a team consisting of representatives from the GREAT Group and the AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS) reviewed and updated the document.

The Compact is available on the AAMC Web site at: https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/research/gradcompact/

Compact Between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors

Predoctoral training entails both formal education in a specific discipline and research experience in which the graduate student trains under the supervision of one or more investigators who will mentor the student through graduate school. A positive mentoring relationship between the predoctoral student and the research advisor is a vital component of the student’s preparation for future careers and mentoring roles.

Individuals who pursue a biomedical graduate degree are embarking on a path of lifelong learning and are therefore expected to take responsibility for their scientific and professional learning and development from the onset. Graduate students must be in charge and take ownership of their progress through the graduate program. This means seeking guidance on and knowledge about course requirements and program requirements, policies, and procedures. Students must also commit to working on an individual development plan. Faculty members who advise students—with the backing of the graduate program and institution—are expected to fulfill the role of mentor, which includes providing scientific training, guidance, instruction in the responsible conduct of research and research ethics, and financial support. The faculty advisor also serves as a scientific and professional role model for the graduate student. In addition, the advisor offers encouragement as the graduate student prepares an individual development plan and facilitates the experiences and professional skills development essential for a broad set of career paths.

Core Tenets of Pre-doctoral Training

Institutional Commitment

Institutions that train biomedical graduate students must be committed to establishing and maintaining rigorous graduate programs with the highest scientific and ethical standards. Institutions should work to ensure that students who complete their programs possess the foundational knowledge, skills, and values that will allow them to mature into scientific professionals of integrity. They should have oversight of the graduate curricula, length of study, stipend levels, benefits, career guidance, grievance procedures, and other matters relevant to the education of biomedical graduate students (e.g., consideration of, preparation for, and exposure to various career paths). Institutions should recognize and reward their graduate-training faculty. With changing and diversified biomedical workforce needs, institutions should recognize the necessity of faculty development around multiple career paths for trainees and
provide opportunities for faculty to acquire such skills and experiences. Additionally, institutions should also foster an environment that is diverse and inclusive.

Program Commitment

Graduate programs should establish training that prepares students with broad and deep scientific knowledge and the technical, professional, and leadership skills necessary for a successful career in the biomedical sciences. Programs should closely monitor the progress of graduate students during their course of study by establishing milestones and clear parameters for outcomes assessment, as well as maintain and make available career outcomes data.

Quality Mentoring

Effective mentoring is crucial for graduate school trainees as they begin their scientific careers. Faculty mentors must commit to dedicating substantial time to the scientific, professional, and personal development of the graduate student. Whether a faculty member acts as the primary research advisor or sits on a student’s advisory committee, a relationship of mutual trust and respect between mentor and graduate student is essential for healthy interactions and to encourage individual growth. Effective mentoring should include teaching the scientific method, providing regular feedback in the form of both positive support and constructive criticism to foster individual growth, teaching the “ways” of the scientific enterprise, and promoting careers by providing or directing students to appropriate opportunities. The best mentors are careful listeners who actively promote and appreciate diversity. They possess and consistently maintain high ethical standards, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of students—in publications and intellectual property, for example—and have a record of research accomplishments and financial support. Finally, it should be recognized that mentoring does not end with a student’s completion of the graduate program but continues throughout the student’s professional life.

Skill Sets and Counseling for a Broad Range of Career Choices

The institution, training programs, and mentor should provide training relevant to a broad variety of careers that will allow graduate students to appreciate, navigate, discuss, and develop career choices. Effective and regular career guidance activities should be offered.

Commitments of Graduate Students

- I acknowledge that I have the primary responsibility for the successful completion of my degree. I will be committed to my graduate education and will demonstrate this by my efforts in the classroom, the research laboratory, and all other related academic and professional activities. I will maintain a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, initiative, engagement, scientific curiosity, and ethical standards, including complying with institutional and research group standards for contributing to an inclusive research environment.

- I will meet regularly with my research advisor to provide updates on the progress and results of my course work, research, and professional and career development activities.

- I will work with my research advisor to develop a thesis/dissertation project. This will include establishing a timeline for each phase of my work. I will strive to keep engaged with the work, discuss experimental findings and any pitfalls, and meet the established goals and deadlines.

- I will work with my research advisor to select a thesis/dissertation committee. I will commit to meeting with this committee at least annually (or more frequently, according to program guidelines). I will discuss my progress to date and be responsive to the advice and constructive criticism from my committee.
• **I will be a good lab citizen.** I agree to take part in shared laboratory responsibilities and will use laboratory resources carefully and frugally. I will maintain a safe and clean laboratory space. I will be respectful of, tolerant of, and work collegially with all laboratory personnel. I will be an active contributing member to all team efforts and collaborations and will respect individual contributions. I will also contribute to an environment that is safe, equitable, and free of harassment.

• **I will maintain detailed, organized, and accurate research records.** With respect to data ownership, I acknowledge that original notebooks, digital files, and tangible research materials belong to the institution and will remain in the lab when I finish my thesis/dissertation so that other individuals can reproduce and carry on related research, in accordance with institutional policy. Only with the explicit approval from my research mentor and in accordance with institutional policy may I make copies of my notebooks and digital files and have access to tangible research materials that I helped to generate during my graduate training.

• **I will discuss policies on work hours, medical leave, and vacation with my graduate program and research advisor.** I will consult with my advisor in advance of any planned absences and apprise my advisor of any unexpected absences due to illness or other issues.

• **I will discuss policies on authorship and attendance at professional meetings with my research advisor.** I will work with my advisor to disseminate all relevant research results in a timely manner before completion of all degree requirements.

• **I will be knowledgeable of the policies and requirements of my graduate program, graduate school, and institution.** I will commit to meeting these requirements in the appropriate time frame and will abide by all institutional policies and procedures.

• **I will attend and actively participate in laboratory meetings, seminars, and journal clubs that are part of my educational program.** To enhance research, leadership, and additional professional skills, I will seek out other enrichment opportunities, such as participation in professional organizations and meetings, student representation on institutional committees, and coordination of departmental events.

• **I will be knowledgeable of all institutional research policies.** I will comply with all institutional laboratory safety practices and animal-use and human-research policies. I will participate in my institution’s Responsible Conduct of Research Training Program and practice the guidelines presented therein while conducting my research. I will also seek input on and comply with institutional policies regarding my research design and data analysis.

• **I acknowledge that I have the primary responsibility for the development of my own career.** I recognize that I need to explore career opportunities and paths that match and develop my individual skills, values, and interests to achieve my desired career goals. I understand that there are tools such as the individual development plan that I should use to help me define my career goals and develop my training plan. I will seek guidance throughout my graduate education from my research advisor, career counseling services, thesis/dissertation committee, other mentors, and any other resources that can offer advice on career planning and the wide range of opportunities available in the biomedical workforce.

**Commitments of Research Advisors**

• **Throughout the graduate student’s time in my laboratory, I will be supportive, equitable, accessible, encouraging, and respectful.** I will foster the graduate student’s professional confidence and encourage intellectual development, critical thinking, curiosity, and creativity. I will continue my interest and involvement as the student moves forward into a career.

• **I will be committed to meeting one-on-one with the student on a regular basis.** I will regularly review the student’s progress and provide timely feedback and goal-setting advice.
• I will be committed to the graduate student’s research project. I will work with the student to help plan and guide the research project, set reasonable and attainable goals, and establish a timeline for completion of the project.

• I will help the graduate student select a thesis/dissertation committee. I will assure that this committee meets at least annually (or more frequently, according to program guidelines) to review and discuss the graduate student’s progress and future directions. I understand that the function of this committee is to help the student complete the doctoral research, and I will respect the ideas and suggestions of my colleagues on the committee.

• I will provide an environment that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe, equitable, and free of harassment.

• I will demonstrate respect for all graduate students as individuals without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation, and I will cultivate a culture of tolerance among the entire laboratory.

• I will be committed to providing financial resources, as appropriate and according to my institution’s guidelines, for the graduate student to conduct thesis/dissertation research. I will not require the graduate student to perform tasks that are unrelated to the training program and professional development.

• I will expect the graduate student to share common laboratory responsibilities and use resources carefully and frugally. I will also regularly meet with the graduate student to review data management, storage, and record keeping. I will discuss with the student intellectual policy issues regarding disclosure, patent rights, and publishing research discoveries.

• I will discuss with the graduate student authorship policies regarding papers. I will acknowledge the graduate student’s scientific contributions to the work in my laboratory, and I will provide assistance in getting the student’s work published in a timely manner.

• I will be knowledgeable of and guide the graduate student through the requirements and deadlines of the graduate program and the institution, as well as teaching requirements, if any, and human resources guidelines.

• I will encourage the graduate student to attend and present their research at scientific/professional meetings and make an effort to secure and facilitate funding for such activities. In addition, I will provide opportunities for the student to discuss science and their research findings with colleagues and fellow scientists within the institution and broader scientific community—for example, at lab meetings, research days, and seminars.

• I will promote the training of the graduate student in professional skills needed for a successful career. These skills include but are not limited to oral and written communication, grant writing, management and leadership, collaborative research, responsible conduct of research, teaching, and mentoring. I will encourage the student to seek opportunities to develop skills in other areas, even if not specifically required by the student’s program. I will also encourage the graduate student to seek input from multiple mentors.

• I will create an environment in which the student can discuss and explore career opportunities and paths that match their skills, values, and interests and be supportive of their career path choices. I will be accessible to give advice and feedback on career goals. I will work with the student on an individual development plan to help define career goals and identify training milestones. I will provide letters of recommendation for the student’s next phase of professional development.
Appendix IV: Resources and Support

Student Health

Academic Support and Counseling
The Office of Academic Support and Counseling (OASC) provides students with variety of support services including academic support and personal counseling. The Einstein support team incorporates both a professional component run through the OASC and a student-run peer mentoring system for both the medical and graduate programs. This allows for all students to access the guidance and help they need while here at Einstein.

For more information, please visit the OASC website: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/student-affairs/academic-support-counseling/

Mental health emergency information is available at: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/student-affairs/academic-support-counseling/mental-health-emergencies.aspx

Special Accommodations: A student who requires special accommodations for exams or other required work must present appropriate documentation to the Office of Academic Support and Counseling (OASC). The documents will be reviewed and, if approved, notification will be sent to the Associate Dean. The student and course leader(s) (for courses in which the student is registered) will then be notified by the Associate Dean.

Also, refer to the Student Disability Accommodation Policy: http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/policies.asp

Personal Counseling
The Office of Academic Support and Counseling (OASC) offers a private and safe environment to discuss academic and emotional issues that may affect your well-being and progress through graduate school. The OASC also offers student a place to come and relax if feeling “just stressed out.” The personal counseling services provided by the OASC cover a vast spectrum. The OASC encourages students to make an appointment to discuss their particular issues and access needed resources. Students can discuss the source of stress, express concerns, vent frustrations, and obtain a referral if desired. By exploring the source of the stress, some insights may be gained on better ways to manage and cope with these feelings.

Please visit http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/student-affairs/academic-support-counseling/personal-counseling/ for more information.

Einstein Student Health Service
The Einstein Student Health Service is available to all students for sick call visits and post-exposure consultations. Walk-in hours for the Student Health Service sick call visit are from 11:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday in the Block Building, 2nd Floor, Room 220.
https://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/occupational-health-service/student-health-service.asp

WellMed Student Wellness Program
WellMed’s goal is to provide opportunities for students to adopt habits and attitudes that will contribute to their balance and well-being. For more information visit: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/education/student-affairs/student-wellness-wellmed/.
Tutoring

The Graduate Division provides tutoring to graduate students as needed. Tutoring is arranged through the Graduate Division office (Belfer 202).

Library

http://library.einstein.yu.edu/

Instruction Sessions and Workshops
The library regularly schedules workshops for students. These workshops are announced and posted on the Library's events calendar.

LibGuides
For information on use and citation of scientific references and other helpful resources relevant to scientific writing, please visit the Library’s LibGuides website: http://libguides.einstein.yu.edu/thesis
Appendix V: Student Safety and Security

Security

https://www.einstein.yu.edu/administration/auxiliary-services/security/

The Office of Security and Transportation is responsible for maintaining the Einstein environment as a secure place for work and study.

The security desk in the Forchheimer lobby operates 24 hours, 7 days a week. The security personnel stationed at the desk can be reached by calling (718) 430-2019.

The main Security Office is located in the Forchheimer Building, Room G9 and can be reached during normal business hours at (718) 430-2180.

In case of emergencies, call 911.

To contact the local police precinct (49th Precinct) dial (718) 918-2000.

Helpful links regarding safety and security are available online (see link above).

Missing Student Policy
A student is considered to be “missing” when a student who resides in on-campus housing has been absent from YU for more than 24 hours without any known reason.

All reports of missing students should be directed to the Einstein Security Office, the Dean of Students, or the Einstein Housing Office. Any reports made to the Dean of Students or the Housing Office will be referred immediately to the Security Office.

The policy is available here: https://www.einstein.yu.edu/docs/administration/policies/missing-student-policy.pdf

Department of Human Resources

http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/human-resources/

The University’s Title IX Coordinator should be contacted if a member of the University community or an applicant believes an act of unlawful discrimination or harassment is occurring.

Title IX Coordinator
Renee Coker, Director of Employee Relations & Equity Compliance Officer
Belfer Educational Center for Health Sciences
1300 Morris Park Avenue, Room 1206
Bronx, New York 10461
Office Phone: (718) 430-3771
renee.coker@einstein.yu.edu

Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity Officer
Yvonne Ramirez
Belfer Educational Center for Health Sciences
More information on the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, including the Harassment Complaint Procedures for Students, is outlined in the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy available at: http://einstein.yu.edu/administration/policies.asp. The policy also includes information on relating to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Stalking, and Dating Violence/Domestic Violence.

Graduate Division Office

The Graduate Division provides diverse resources geared towards serving our students. The Associate Dean and Program Directors are always available by appointment and monitor their email frequently. Contact information is as follows:

Dr. Victoria Freedman, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs
Office Phone: (718) 430-2872
victoria.freedman@einstein.yu.edu

Dr. Myles Akabas, Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program
Office Phone: (718) 430-3360
myles.akabas@einstein.yu.edu

Ms. Sheila Cleeton, Executive Director and Registrar, Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences
Office Phone: (718) 430-4133
sheila.cleeton@einstein.yu.edu
Appendix VI: Student Records and Privacy Rights of Students (FERPA)

Purpose

Among its several purposes, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Section 438 of the General Educational Provisions Act, 20 USC 1232g), ("FERPA") was enacted to protect the privacy of students’ education records, to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide students with an opportunity to have inaccurate or misleading information in their education records corrected. FERPA also permits the disclosure by an institution without a student’s prior consent of so-called directory information about that student. Students have the right to file complaints with the Department of Education’s Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by an institution to comply with FERPA. In accordance with the statute and the FERPA regulations issued by the Department of Education, Albert Einstein College of Medicine ("Einstein") has adopted the following policies and procedures.

Scope

This policy applies to all students of Einstein. "Student" includes any person with respect to whom Einstein maintains an education record, whether or not that person is currently in attendance. Persons who have not been in attendance are not “students” entitled to review their records. Thus, persons who have applied to and been admitted by Einstein, but who have not yet enrolled at Einstein, are not eligible to review their records. Also, students who, while attending one academic program at Einstein, have applied to another Einstein academic program, are not entitled to review records of the academic program to which they are applying until they have been accepted and are in attendance at that academic program.

Policy

A. Definition of Educational Records

"Educational records” available for review are defined as those records, files, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to a student and that are maintained by Einstein or by a third party acting for Einstein. The form in which the information is maintained by Einstein does not matter; for example, computerized or electronic files, audio or video tape, photographic images, film, etc., with such information are “education records.” This includes communications and documents distributed or received by e-mail, or other similar Einstein systems, which are retained in these systems, either by the sending or receiving party.

Under FERPA and its related regulations, the following types of Einstein records are not “education records” and are, therefore, not available for student review:

1. Records maintained personally by instructional, supervisory or administrative personnel that are not available to others.

2. Records that relate to an individual who is employed by Einstein and that (a) are made and maintained in the normal course of business, (b) are not available for use for any other purpose, and (c) relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee. This exception does not apply to records that relate to a student in attendance at Einstein who is employed as a result of his or her status as a student.

3. Records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional which are created, maintained, or used only in connection with the treatment of the student and that are not available to anyone other than the persons providing such treatment. Such records can be personally reviewed by a physician, psychologist, or other appropriate health professional of the student’s choice. (Students who have received treatment from Einstein’s health services or counseling office may contact those offices to inquire concerning access to patient information.)
4. Records that contain information relating to an individual who no longer is a student at Einstein and that are not directly related to the individual’s attendance as a student, i.e., alumni records.

5. Grades or peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by an instructor.

Also, Einstein does not have to permit a student to review education records that are:

1. Financial records of the parents of a student.

2. Confidential letters and statements of recommendation placed in the education records of a student: (a) prior to January 1, 1975, as long as they are used only for the purposes for which they were specifically intended; and (b) after January 1, 1975, if the student has waived access to such letters and recommendations and if such letters and recommendations relate to the student’s admission to an educational institution (including admission to Einstein), application for employment, or receipt of an honor or honorary recognition (see section below on “Waivers”).

3. Records such as those which may be maintained by Einstein’s Office of General Counsel, the confidentiality of which is protected by law.

4. Those portions of the educational record that contain information about other students.

B. Type and Location of Records kept at Einstein

1. The principal education records of each student are maintained by each academic program’s registrar or, if the program does not have a registrar, its program director. The registrar or program director is responsible for these records. Inquiries concerning these records should be made in writing to the applicable academic program’s registrar or program director:

   a. Medical School: Hayley Erickson, Registrar
   b. Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences: Sheila Cleeton, Registrar
   c. Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP): Hayley Erickson for MD records; Sheila Cleeton for PhD records
   d. Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP): Aileen P. McGinn, PhD, Director
   e. Bioethics Program: Tia Powell, MD, Director
   f. Postdoctoral Program: Anne R. Bresnick, PhD, Director

2. In addition to the principle record maintained by the appropriate registrar or program director, certain other offices or persons may maintain records for students such as: The Deans of the academic programs, admissions, the student’s academic department, Student Finance Office (if student has applied for financial aid), student advisement and counseling offices, course leaders, and/or committees and subcommittees of the academic program. Not all of these categories of records are maintained for any given student, and there may be others. Inquiries concerning these records should be made in writing to the appropriate individual, department or administrative office.

3. Administrative records pertaining to student housing are not kept by Einstein. Rather, such records are kept by the Student Housing Office and are in the charge of the Student Housing Office. Inquiries from students concerning these records should be made in writing to the head of the Student Housing Office.

C. Inspection and Review of Records

1. A student who wishes to review his/her education record or a copy of same must submit to the appropriate office a written request that specifically identifies the records of interest. The student will be provided with this review opportunity within a reasonable time, not to exceed 45 days from the date of receipt of the request by the appropriate office. The student should bring valid photo identification to the appointment.
2. If any material or document in the education record(s) of a student includes information on more than one student, the student may inspect and review or be informed of only that part of the material or document relating to herself or himself.

3. At Einstein’s discretion, students may obtain duplicate copies other than Einstein transcripts. A specific form must be submitted in order to obtain this copy. Students will not be permitted to remove the original record(s) from the record review office. At the conclusion of the review, the record(s) is returned to the office that maintains it.

4. If a student is physically unable to come to the appropriate record review office, and if this inability would effectively deny the student access to her or his records, the student may obtain a record request form by calling or writing to the appropriate record review officer. The student should then return the completed request form by mail to the record review officer. The officer will make special arrangements for the review. If applicable, in addition to duplication costs, there may also be a charge for the cost of mailing.

D. Waivers

A student may waive his or her right to access to confidential recommendations for any of the following: admission to an educational institution; employment; receipt of an honor or honorary recognition. Waiver forms are available from each academic program admissions office. The waiver must be in writing and must be signed by the student. If a student waives her or his right to access, the recommendations must be used solely for the purposes for which they were intended, and, if the student so requests, Einstein will give her or him the names of the individuals who made the recommendations. Recommendations mailed to third parties should include a copy of the signed waiver, so that the third party is aware that the student has waived access to the recommendation, and, hence, cannot obtain access to it from the third party’s records in the future. Einstein does not have the right to make the student’s waiver a condition to the student’s receipt of any service or benefit from Einstein. Waivers may be revoked by the student, but the revocation will not enable the student to gain access to confidential recommendations made while the waiver was in effect.

E. Correction of Records

1. If after inspecting and reviewing their academic records, the student believes that any information contained in them is inaccurate, misleading or violates their privacy or other rights, the student may request in writing that the office which contains those records amend them. The request should clearly identify the part of the records the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. There is no obligation on the part of Einstein to grant such a request.

2. That office must reach a decision and inform the students making such requests of the decision in writing, within a reasonable period of time.

3. If the office refuses to amend the record in accordance with a student's request, the student has the right to a hearing.

4. This hearing will be conducted by a committee appointed by the Executive Dean, consisting of persons who do not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing.

5. The hearing will be held within a reasonable period of time after the student has made the request and the student will be given notice of the date, place, and time, reasonably in advance of the hearing.

6. The student will be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issue raised, and may be assisted or represented by individuals of their own choice at their own expense, including an attorney.

7. The committee will make its decision in writing within a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the hearing.
8. The decision of the committee will be based solely upon the evidence presented at the hearing and will include a written statement given to all parties concerned, summarizing the decision and reason for the decision.

9. If, as a result of the hearing, the committee supports the complaint of the student, the education records of the student will be amended accordingly and the student will be so informed.

10. If the committee decides against the student, the student has the right to place in their record a statement commenting on the information in the record and/or stating their reasons for disagreeing with the decision. This explanation will be maintained by Einstein as part of the education records of the student as long as those records are maintained, and whenever a copy of those records are sent to any party, the explanation will accompany them.

F. Disclosure of Information from Records

Prior to disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's education records, Einstein will obtain the student's signed and dated written consent to such disclosure, unless consent is not required by law. The student's written consent must "specify the records that may be disclosed; state the purpose of the disclosure; and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made." In the case of certain offices, such as the career services or pre-professional committees, students can sign a blanket consent for disclosure of specified records to "appropriate third parties." Signed and dated written consent "may include a record and signature in electronic form that identifies and authenticates" the student as the source of the consent and indicates the student's "approval of the information contained in the electronic consent." Such consent is not needed for disclosure of directory information (see Section G below) or for disclosure:

1. to the student.

2. to school officials with legitimate educational interests; school officials having a legitimate educational interest include any Einstein employee acting within the scope of her or his Einstein employment, and any duly appointed faculty, agent or representative of Einstein acting within the scope of his or her appointment.

3. to accrediting, testing, and similar organizations.

4. to parents of dependent students (see section below on "Requests from Parents").

5. to certain federal, state, and local officials and authorities, in each case as specified in Subpart D of the FERPA Regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

6. in connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or received, under the conditions set forth in the FERPA Regulations.

7. to comply with a subpoena or judicial order, provided that Einstein attempts to notify the student of the order or subpoena before complying with it (unless, in the case of a Federal grand jury subpoena or other subpoena issued for a law enforcement purpose, the subpoena orders that such notification not be made), or to provide information to the Attorney General of the United States or to his designee, without notification to the student, in response to a court order issued in connection with the investigation or prosecution of terrorism crimes as specified in Title 18, U.S. Code, sections 2331 and 2332 (g) (5) (B). Permission is not needed for disclosure to a court when Einstein has initiated legal action against a parent or student or when necessary for Einstein to defend itself when a parent or student has initiated action against it.

8. in an emergency where there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individual, to appropriate parties whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. In such cases, Einstein will maintain a record of the articulable and significant threat which formed the basis for disclosure and the parties to whom the information was disclosed.
9. when forwarding education records to the officials of another institution (a) in which a student seeks or intends to enroll if that institution requests such records, or (b) if the student is enrolled in, or receiving services from, that institution while she or he is attending Einstein, provided that the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. The student's consent is not required for such disclosure, nor is any other notice of the transfer required, although a copy of each record so disclosed will be provided to the student if the student asks for it.

10. of the final results of any Einstein disciplinary proceeding relating to a crime of violence or non-forceable sex offense allegedly perpetrated by an Einstein student to an alleged victim of that crime or offense, regardless of whether or not it is concluded that a violation was committed. The consent of the alleged student perpetrator is not a condition to this disclosure.

11. of the final results of any Einstein disciplinary proceeding reached if it is determined that a student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forceable sex offense and the student has committed a violation of Einstein's rules or policies with respect to the allegation. The names of other students, including the victim or witnesses, may not be disclosed without their prior written consent.

12. of information concerning registered sex offenders, provided to Einstein under the Wetterling Act, including information made available under State sex offender registration notification programs.

13. to certain educational agencies and institutions conducting studies, provided that the studies are conducted in a manner which will not permit the personal identification of students by individuals other than representatives of the organization and that the information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose for which the study was conducted.

G. Directory Information

FERPA permits and Einstein has designated the following items as “directory information:” student name, dates of attendance; degree and awards received; previous schools attended, dates, and degrees received therein; local and permanent address(es), phone number(s), e-mail address(es); date and place of birth; and participation in officially recognized activities. Einstein may disclose any of these without written request or consent if a student has not specifically restricted its distribution.

Currently enrolled students may refuse to permit disclosure of some or all directory information. To do so, students must submit, within 10 days of registration each semester (fall, spring, summer), to the appropriate registrar or program director’s office a completed and signed “Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information Form,” available in the appropriate registrar or program director’s office. A new form for non-disclosure must be completed each academic year.

H. Right of Complaint

A student who feels that Einstein is not complying with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, or the regulations issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare implementing that Act, may file a complaint in writing with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

The full text of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the full text of the final regulations of the U.S. Department of Education for the implementation of the Act, are available for review in the Office of the General Counsel.
Copies of this statement are available upon request to the Office of the Registrar. Revisions and clarifications of this statement may be published periodically to conform with the law and Einstein’s policies.

Additional Information is available at:
34 CFR 99: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5&node=34:1.1.1.1.33

I. Requests from Parents

Occasionally, a parent will request information from a student’s education records or a copy of the student’s transcript. Under FERPA, institutions are not required to disclose such information to the student’s parent, but may do so if: (a) there is written consent to the disclosure from the student, or (b) the parent requests the information in writing and provides evidence that the student is his or her dependent under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

If the procedure indicated under (b) is followed, Einstein’s practice is to ask the parent to establish dependency by providing a copy of her or his latest federal income tax return. Confidential information on the return may be expunged, provided that the information that remains is sufficient for Einstein to ascertain that the parent has claimed the student as a dependent. Further, it is also the practice of Einstein (except in a health or safety emergency) to inform the student of such a request and of the information requested before deciding whether to provide the requested information to the parent. “Parent” is defined by FERPA as “a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian.”

J. Annual Notice

Einstein informs students of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA, as amended) periodically, but no less than once per academic year. This policy is also posted on Einstein’s internet and intranet websites.

Effective Date

September 1, 2017

Policy Management and Responsibilities

The Office of the Dean is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Executive Dean is the Responsible Executive, and each academic program’s registrar and/or program director are the Responsible Officers for the management of this policy.
Appendix VII: Student Disability Accommodation Policy

http://einstein.yu.edu/docs/administration/policies/Student-Disability-Accommodation-Policy-rev-final-(signed)-122217.pdf

Purpose
This policy enables Albert Einstein College of Medicine ("Einstein") to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which require reasonable accommodations made for qualified students with disabilities and prohibit the colleges and universities from excluding such students from, or denying them the benefits of, its programs or activities.

Scope
This policy applies to all qualified students with a disability to obtain reasonable accommodations at Einstein. Only students who identify themselves as having a disability and seek accommodation using these procedures are eligible. Students who have been accepted but have not yet enrolled may also access this policy.

Policy
It is the policy of Einstein to provide reasonable accommodation(s) for students with appropriately diagnosed and documented disabilities, provided that such accommodation does not change the fundamental nature of the educational program or adversely affect the safety of patients, staff or fellow trainees. Further related details of this policy follow, with some variance in procedures and limits as per the nature of the condition. Not that the quality/quantity of medical documentation required to take a “leave” is generally less than that required for a student seeking ongoing accommodations while engaged in the curriculum and/or taking examinations. In seeking accommodations of any type for any reason(s) (disability-related or otherwise), students are required to complete applicable paperwork and to provide the required background data and consent access to same.

A. Temporary Medical/Disability Leave

In the event of a short-term, non-recurring illness or disability that renders a student temporarily unable to participate in all or part of the academic program in which the student is enrolled (including pregnancy), that student is entitled to reasonable accommodation. When a student’s capacity to participate in the academic program is compromised by acute medical illness (up to six months approximate duration), the student may request medical leave status, relieving him/her of curricular duties. The student must provide a properly documented diagnosis from a qualified professional with acceptable credentials and recognized expertise. This documentation is to be provided to the dean or program director of the academic program in which the student is enrolled. Additional ongoing documentation may be required in some cases. Einstein reserves the right to require further evaluation before approving request for leave(s) and to make an individualized judgment as to the most appropriate plan. The safety of patients and others, including the student him/herself, also will be considered. The appropriate Dean of the student’s program, as applicable, may require a student to be on medical leave.

The start and end dates of this leave status may appear on the transcript. The student-on-leave may in some cases remain on the class roster (which entitles him/her to housing privileges, medical and other student amenities, etc.) for up to six months, after which other arrangements may become necessary. Policies regarding medical and related benefits are governed by contract language that is not subject to the authority of policy.

If a transient medical condition only partly compromises a student’s capacity to participate in the academic program, efforts will be made to accommodate the problem, as stated above. For example, a student with a fractured dominant hand might be provided writing assistance for the purposes of examinations.

B. Longer-Term Disability/Illness Conditions

Einstein provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations in accordance with the ADA for individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodation. The following information is provided for students, Einstein personnel who work with students, interested faculty, and others who may be involved in the process of discussing and/or documenting a request for accommodations. Much of the following is applicable to testing-related accommodations, but these procedures are applicable, as well, to other types of requested accommodations.
accommodations. Applicants requesting testing-related or other accommodations should share these guidelines with their evaluator, therapist, treating physician, etc., so that appropriate documentation can be assembled to support the request for test or other accommodations.

Accommodations for disabilities must be handled or cleared centrally by the academic program’s dean or program director, or their designated staff members. Approaching course leaders or other “local” staff or supervisors without regard to Einstein’s published policies (which include detailed documentary requirements) is considered non-compliant with this policy and may similarly jeopardize one’s academic record as this record may have been affected by the improperly “authorized” accommodations.

**Persons with Disability Defined:** The ADA and accompanying regulations define a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, seeing, hearing, or learning. The primary purpose of documentation is to validate that the individual is covered under the ADA as a disabled individual.

The purpose of accommodations is to provide equal access to the elements and the totality of medical education. Our intent is that accommodations “match up” with the identified functional limitation so that the area of impairment is alleviated by an auxiliary aid or adjustment to the testing procedures and/or to any other aspect of medical education, e.g., hearing a lecture in the case of hearing-impaired student. Functional limitation refers to the behavioral manifestations of the disability that impede the individual’s ability to function, i.e., what someone cannot do on a regular and continuing basis as a result of the disability. For example, a functional limitation might be impaired vision, such that the individual is unable to view an examination in standard lighting conditions. An appropriate accommodation might be additional task lighting. It is essential that the documentation provide a clear explanation of the functional impairment and a rationale for the requested accommodation, whether related to examinations or other medical student functions.

While presumably the use of accommodations in the identified activity will enable the individual to better demonstrate his/her knowledge or other skills, accommodations are not a guarantee of improved performance or of successfully meeting required performance standards.

**General Guidelines:**

The following guidelines are provided to assist the applicant in documenting a need for accommodation based on an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Documentation submitted in support of a request may be referred to experts in the appropriate area of disability for impartial professional review. The student must personally initiate a written request for accommodations and must provide appropriate consent to allow for communication/correspondence with medical or other providers/evaluators of the student.

To support a request for test accommodations, please submit the following:

1. Completed Accommodations Request Questionnaire (ARQ), and associated consent forms.
2. A detailed, comprehensive written report describing your disability and its severity and justifying the need for the requested accommodations.

The following characteristics are expected of all documentation submitted in support of a request for accommodations. Documentation must:

1. State a specific diagnosis of the disability.
2. Be a professionally recognized diagnosis for the particular category of disability, e.g., the DSM-V diagnostic categories for learning disabilities.
3. Be current.

Because the provision of reasonable accommodations is based on assessment of the current impact of the student’s disability on the testing or other student activity, it is in the individual’s best interest to provide recent documentation. As the manifestations of a disability may vary over time and in different settings, in most cases an evaluation should have been conducted within the past three years.

Describe the specific diagnostic criteria and name the diagnostic tests used, including date(s) of evaluation, specific test results and a detailed interpretation of the test results. This description should include the results of diagnostic
procedures and tests utilized and should include relevant educational, developmental, and medical history. Specific test results should be reported to support the diagnosis, e.g., documentation for a student with multiple sclerosis should include specific findings on the neurological examination including functional limitations and MRI or other studies, if relevant.

Diagnostic methods used should be appropriate to the disability and current professional practices within the field. Informal or non-standardized evaluations should be described in enough detail that other professionals could understand their role in the diagnostic process.

Describe in detail the individual’s limitations due to the diagnosed disability and explain the relationship of the test results to the identified limitations resulting from the disability. The current functional impact on physical, perceptual and cognitive abilities should be fully described.

Recommend specific accommodations and/or assistive devices including a detailed explanation of why these accommodations or devices are needed and how they will reduce the impact of the identified functional limitations.

Establish the professional credentials of the evaluator that qualify him/her to make the particular diagnosis, including information about license or certification and specialization in the area of the diagnosis. The evaluator should present evidence of comprehensive training and direct experience in the diagnosis and treatment of adults in the specific area of illness or disability.

If no prior accommodations have been provided, the qualified professional expert should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why accommodations are needed now.

Although Einstein will make every attempt to provide accommodations for physical disabilities, for those students in the medical or MD-PhD program, much of the time in the clinical (third and fourth) years is spent at affiliated hospitals over which Einstein does not have control or authority. Therefore, Einstein cannot guarantee the level of accommodations available at these sites.

Additional Guidelines for Learning Disabilities:

Documentation for applicants submitting a request for accommodations based on a learning disability or other cognitive impairment should contain all of the items listed in the General Guidelines section above. The following information explains the additional issues documentation must address relative to learning disabilities.

The evaluation must be conducted by a qualified professional. The diagnostician must have comprehensive training in the field of learning disabilities and must have comprehensive training and direct experience in working with an adult population.

Testing/assessment must be current. The determination of whether an individual is significantly limited in functioning according to ADA criteria is based on assessment of the current impact of the impairment. (See General Guidelines above). A developmental disorder such as a learning disability originates in childhood and, therefore, information that demonstrates a history of impaired functioning should also be provided.

Documentation must be comprehensive. Objective evidence of a substantial limitation in cognition or learning must be provided. At a minimum, the comprehensive evaluation should include a diagnostic interview and history taking.

Because learning disabilities are commonly manifested though not always formally diagnosed during childhood, relevant historical information regarding the individual’s academic history and learning processes in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education should be investigated and documented. The report of assessment should include a summary of a comprehensive diagnostic interview that includes relevant background information to support the diagnosis. In addition to the candidate’s self-report, the report of assessment should include:

1. A description of the presenting problem(s);
2. A developmental history;
3. Relevant academic history including results of prior standardized testing, reports of classroom performance and behaviors including transcripts, study habits and attitudes and notable trends in academic performance;
4. Relevant family history, including primary language of the home and current level of fluency in English;
5. Relevant psychosocial history
6. Relevant medical history including the absence of the medical basis for the present symptoms;
7. Relevant employment history;
8. A discussion of dual diagnosis, alternative or co-existing mood, behavioral, neurological and/or personality disorders along with any history of relevant medication and current use that may impact the individual’s learning;
9. Exploration of possible alternatives that may mimic a learning disability when, in fact, one is not present;
10. A psycho-educational or neuropsychological evaluation. The signed psycho-educational or neuropsychological evaluation must be submitted on the letterhead of a qualified professional, and it must provide clear and specific evidence that a learning or cognitive disability does or does not exist.

Assessment must consist of a comprehensive battery of tests. A diagnosis must be based on the aggregate of test results, history and level of current functioning. It is not acceptable to base a diagnosis on only one or two subtests. Objective evidence of a substantial limitation to learning must be presented. Tests must be appropriately normed for the age of the patient and must be administered in the designated standardized manner.

Minimally, the domains to be addressed should include the following:

1. Cognitive Functioning: A complete cognitive assessment is essential with all subtests and standard scores reported. Acceptable measures include but are not limited to: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III); Woodcock Johnson Psycho-educational Battery-Revised: Tests of Cognitive Ability; Kaufnan Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test.
2. Achievement: A comprehensive achievement battery with all subtests and standard scores is essential. The battery must include current levels of academic functioning in relevant areas such as reading (decoding and comprehension) and mathematics. Acceptable instruments include but are not limited to the Woodcock-Johnson Psycho-educational Battery-Revised: Tests of Achievement; The Scholastic Abilities Test for Adults (SAT A); Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests-Revised. Specific achievement tests are useful instruments when administered under standardized conditions and when interpreted within the context of other diagnostic information. The Wide Range Achievement Test-3 (WRA T-3) and the Nelson-Denny Reading Test are not comprehensive diagnostic measures of achievement, and therefore neither is acceptable if used as the sole measure of achievement.
3. Information Processing: Specific areas of information processing (e.g., short- and long-term memory, auditory and visual perception/processing, auditory and phonological awareness, processing speed, executive functioning, motor ability) must be assessed. Acceptable measures include but are not limited to the Detroit Tests of Learning Aptitude Adult (DTLA-A), Wechsler Memory Scale-III (WMS-III), information from the Woodcock Johnson Psycho-educational Battery Revised: Tests of Cognitive Ability as well as other relevant instruments that may be used to address these areas.
4. Other Assessment Measures: Other formal assessment measures or nonstandard measures and informal assessment procedures or observations may be integrated with the above instruments to help support a differential diagnosis or to disentangle the learning disability from co-existing neurological and/or psychiatric issues. In addition to standardized test batteries, non-standardized measure and informal assessment procedures may be helpful in determining performance across a variety of domains.

Actual test scores must be provided (standard scores where available). Evaluators should use the most recent form of tests and should identify the specific test form as well as the norms used to compute scores. It is helpful to list all test data in a score summary sheet appended to the evaluation.

Records of academic history should be provided. Because learning disabilities are most commonly manifested during childhood, relevant records detailing learning processes and difficulties in elementary, secondary and postsecondary education should be included. Such records as grade reports, transcripts, teachers' comments and the like will serve to substantiate self-reported academic difficulties in the past and currently.

A differential diagnosis must be reviewed and various possible alternative causes for the identified problems in academic achievement should be ruled out. The evaluation should address key constructs underlying the concept of learning disabilities and provide clear and specific evidence of the information processing deficit(s) and how these deficits currently impair the individual's ability to learn. No single test or subtest is a sufficient basis for a diagnosis.
The differential diagnosis must demonstrate that:

1. Significant difficulties persist in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing or reasoning skills.
2. The problems being experienced are not primarily the result of lack of exposure to the behaviors needed for academic learning or to an inadequate match between the individual's ability and the instructional demands.
3. A clinical summary must be provided. A well-written diagnostic summary based on a comprehensive evaluative process is a necessary component of the report. Assessment instruments and the data they provide do not diagnose; rather, they provide important data that must be integrated with background information, historical information and current functioning. It is essential then that the evaluator integrate all information gathered in a well-developed clinical summary. The following elements must be included in the clinical summary:
   a. Demonstration of the evaluators having ruled out alternative explanations for the identified academic problems as a result of poor education, poor motivation and/or study skills, emotional problems, attentional problems and cultural or language differences;
   b. Indication of how patterns in cognitive ability, achievement and information processing are used to determine the presence of a learning disability;
   c. Indication of the substantial limitation to learning presented by the learning disability and, for students in the medical or MD-PhD program, the degree to which it impacts the individual in the context of the USMLE; and
   d. Indication as to why specific accommodations are needed and how the effects of the specific disability are mediated by the recommended accommodation(s).

Problems such as test anxiety, English as a second language (in and of itself), slow reading without an identified underlying cognitive deficit, or failure to achieve a desired academic outcome are not learning disabilities and therefore are not covered under the ADA.

Each accommodation recommended by the evaluator must include a rationale. The evaluator must describe the impact the diagnosed learning disability has on a specific major life activity as well as the degree of significance of this impact on the individual. The diagnostic report must include specific recommendations for accommodations and a detailed explanation as to why each accommodation is recommended. Recommendations must be tied to specific test results or clinical observations. The documentation should include any record of prior accommodation or auxiliary aids, including any information about specific conditions under which the accommodations were used and whether or not they were effective. However, a prior history of accommodation, without demonstration of a current need, does not in and of itself warrant the provision of a like accommodation. If no prior accommodation(s) has been provided, the qualified professional expert should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodation(s) was used in the past and why accommodation(s) is needed at this time.

C. Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Documentation for applicants submitting a request for accommodations based on an Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) should contain all of the items listed in the General Guidelines section above. The following information explains the additional issues documentation must address relative to ADHD.

1. The evaluation must be conducted by a qualified diagnostician.

   Professionals conducting assessments and rendering diagnoses of ADHD must be qualified to do so. Comprehensive training in the differential diagnosis of ADHD and other psychiatric disorders and direct experience in diagnosis and treatment of adults is necessary. The evaluator's name, title and professional credentials, including information about license or certification as well as the area of specialization, employment and state in which the individual practices should be clearly stated in the documentation.

2. Testing/assessment must be current.
The determination of whether an individual is "significantly limited" in functioning is based on assessment of the current impact of the impairment on testing, and for students in the medical or MD-PhD program, the USMLE testing program. (See General Guidelines section above.)

3. Documentation necessary to substantiate the Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder must be comprehensive.

Because ADHD is, by definition, first exhibited in childhood (although it may not have been formally diagnosed) and in more than one setting, objective, relevant, historical information is essential. Information verifying a chronic course of ADHD symptoms from childhood through adolescence to adulthood, such as educational transcripts, report cards, teacher comments, tutoring evaluations, and job assessments, are necessary.

a. The evaluator is expected to review and discuss DSM-V diagnostic criteria for ADHD and describe the extent to which the patient meets these criteria. The report must include information about the specific symptoms exhibited and document that the patient meets criteria for long-standing history, impairment and pervasiveness.

b. A history of the individual's presenting symptoms must be provided, including evidence of ongoing impulsive/hyperactive or inattentive behaviors (as specified in DSM-V) that significantly impair functioning in two or more settings.

c. The information collected by the evaluator must consist of more than self-report.

Information from third party sources is critical in the diagnosis of adult ADHD. Information gathered in the diagnostic interview and reported in the evaluation should include, but should not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- A history of presenting attentional symptoms, including evidence of ongoing impulsive/hyperactive or inattentive behavior that has significantly impaired functioning over time;
- Developmental history;
- Family history for presence of ADHD and other educational, learning, physical or psychological difficulties deemed relevant by the examiner;
- Relevant psychosocial history and any relevant interventions;
- A thorough academic history of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education;
- Review of psycho-educational test reports to determine if a pattern of strengths or weaknesses is supportive of attention or learning problems;
- Evidence of impairment in several life settings (home, school, work, etc.) and evidence that the disorder significantly restricts one or more major life activities;
- Relevant employment history;
- Description of current functional limitations relative to an educational setting and, for students in the medical or MD-PhD program, to USMLE in particular that are presumably a direct result of the described problems with attention;
- A discussion of the differential diagnosis, including alternative or co-existing mood, behavioral, neurological and/or personality disorders that may confound the diagnosis of ADHD; and
- Exploration of possible alternative diagnoses that may mimic ADHD.

4. Relevant assessment batteries.

A neuropsychological or psycho-educational assessment may be necessary in order to determine the individual's pattern of strengths or weaknesses and to determine whether there are patterns supportive of attention problems. Test scores or subtest scores alone should not be used as the sole basis for the diagnostic decision. Scores from subtests on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III), memory functions tests, attention or tracking tests or continuous performance tests do not in and of themselves establish the presence or absence of ADHD. They may, however, be useful as one part of the process developing clinical hypotheses. Checklists and/or surveys can serve to supplement the diagnostic profile but by themselves are not adequate for the diagnosis of ADHD. When testing is used, standard scores must be provided for all normed measures.
5. Identification of DSM-V Criteria.

A diagnostic report must include a review of the DSM-V criteria for ADHD both currently and retrospectively and specify which symptoms are present (see DSM-V for specific criteria). According to DSM-V, "the essential feature of ADHD is a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that is more frequent and severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development." Other criteria include:
   a. Symptoms of hyperactivity-impulsivity or inattention that cause impairment that were present in childhood.
   b. Current symptoms that have been present for at least the past six months.
   c. Impairment from the symptoms present in two or more settings (school, work, home).

6. Documentation must include a specific diagnosis.

The report must include a specific diagnosis of ADHD based on the DSM-V diagnostic criteria. Individuals who report problems with organization, test anxiety, memory and concentration only on a situational basis do not fit the prescribed diagnostic criteria for ADHD. Given that many individuals benefit from prescribed medications and therapies, a positive response to medication by itself is not supportive of a diagnosis, nor does the use of medication in and of itself either support or negate the need for accommodation.

7. A clinical summary must be provided.

A well-written diagnostic summary based on a comprehensive evaluative process is a necessary component of the assessment. The clinical summary must include:
   a. Demonstration of the evaluators’ having ruled out alternative explanations for inattentiveness, impulsivity, and/or hyperactivity as a result of psychological or medical disorders or non-cognitive factors;
   b. Indication of how patterns of inattentiveness, impulsivity and/or hyperactivity across the life span and across settings are used to determine the presence of ADHD;
   c. Indication of the substantial limitation to learning presented by ADHD and the degree to which it impacts the individual in the context for which accommodations are being requested (e.g., for students in the medical or MD-PhD program, impact on the USMLE program); and
   d. Indication as to why specific accommodations are needed and how the effects of ADHD symptoms, as designated by the DSM-IV, are mediated by the accommodation(s).

8. Each accommodation recommended by the evaluator must include a rationale.

The evaluator must describe the impact of ADHD (if one exists) on a specific major life activity as well as the degree of significance of this impact on the individual. The diagnostic report must include specific recommendations for accommodations. A detailed explanation must be provided as to why each accommodation is recommended and should be correlated with specific identified functional limitations. Prior documentation may have been useful in determining appropriate services in the past. However, documentation should validate the need for accommodation based on the individual's current level of functioning. The documentation should include any record of prior accommodation or auxiliary aid, including information about specific conditions under which the accommodation was used (e.g., standardized testing, final exams, NBME subject exams, etc.).

However, a prior history of accommodation without demonstration of a current need does not in itself warrant the provision of a similar accommodation. If no prior accommodation has been provided, the qualified professional and/or individual being evaluated should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodation was used in the past and why accommodation is needed at this time.

Because of the challenge of distinguishing ADHD from normal developmental patterns and behaviors of adults, including procrastination, disorganization, distractibility, restlessness, boredom, academic underachievement or failure, low self-esteem and chronic tardiness or absenteeism, a multifaceted
evaluation must address the intensity and frequency of the symptoms and whether these behaviors constitute an impairment in a major life activity.

While students receiving exam accommodations may do so in a separate location from the bulk of their classmates, no provisions are made to allow for a private exam setting for a single student. Typically, accommodated exams (i.e., extended time, etc.) will be given to a group of accommodated students in one room and will be continuously proctored. While the reason(s) for a student's exam accommodations are kept private from those who do not need to know, we do not ascribe to a student's privilege to keep secret the fact they he/she is being accommodated and taking examinations under non-standard conditions.

Although Einstein may agree to provide various accommodations during Einstein exams (extra time, etc.), for students in the medical or MD-PhD program, there is no guarantee that the USMLE, which administers Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS, and Step 3 licensing exams, will provide any or similar accommodation.

D. Psychiatric Illness (Other than LD, ADHD)

1. A student requesting accommodation for a psychiatric disability must present a properly documented diagnosis and recommendation for accommodation from a qualified professional with acceptable credentials and recognized expertise. The following principles and procedures will guide the process by which decisions concerning academic status and/or accommodations for psychiatric illness and/or symptoms will be made.

If applicable, the presence of a psychiatric illness does not preclude the student promotions committee for medical students and the Graduate Executive committee for graduate students (in either case, the “Applicable Committee”) from deliberating and taking actions under the provisions related to academic performance and/or professional misconduct issues. This section's provisions are written, generally speaking, to address conspicuously illness-related lapses in a student's functioning. The Applicable Committee may consider the application of its full complement of by-laws, or portions thereof, as deemed appropriate in a given case.

The Applicable Committee members are cautioned to respond methodically to student claims of psychiatric illness, especially those claims that appear after disciplinary process has begun. The appropriate expert members of the Applicable Committee bear specific responsibility to try to prevent students from misusing such claims to mitigate the proper functioning of the Applicable Committee. Receiving a diagnosis of a mental illness does not automatically relieve a student of accountability for poor performance or behavior. Accommodations are not retroactive.

2. Where a student experiences an episode or series of episodes of psychiatric illness and/or symptoms that reasonably appears, in the judgment of the applicable academic program’s dean or program director after appropriate psychiatric consultation, to render the student unable to safely continue to participate in the academic program curriculum or the care of patients, the applicable academic program’s dean or program director may immediately place the student on medical leave status. When this occurs, the matter shall promptly be brought before its Applicable Committee, which shall assume the responsibility for further recommendations concerning leave in accordance with this policy.

3. Actions taken under the authority of this policy shall be in response, not to the presence of a "psychiatric illness/diagnosis" per se, but to documented aberrations of judgment or behavior that adversely affect clinical, laboratory, interpersonal, community, and/or general social functions and relationships. Periods of impaired judgment, above all, pose a threat to patients, regardless of the specific diagnosis or etiology of the condition.

4. The student shall be notified of the date and time of the Applicable Committee meeting and shall be invited to attend the meeting and make a presentation to the Applicable Committee. At the request of the student or treating psychiatrist, the student may meet with a sub-committee consisting of three members, rather than the Applicable Committee as a whole. In such case, the sub-committee will present a report to the Applicable Committee. If the student is unable for medical reasons to attend a meeting, a written statement may be submitted or reasonable adjournment may be granted. If the student is, after a reasonable adjournment, still unable to attend a meeting or present a written statement, the meeting will nevertheless then be held.
5. The Applicable Committee shall review all available information concerning the episode or series of episodes of psychiatric illness. Based on expert consultation, the Applicable Committee shall decide whether the episode(s) is (are) of such character as to constitute a risk to the student or others or as to indicate that the student is potentially unable to withstand the stresses of the academic program and whether or not to allow the student to immediately return to the curriculum upon resolution of the precipitating event. If the Applicable Committee determines that the student shall be allowed to immediately return to the curriculum, it may provide that the student shall return on probationary status and be observed for his/her ability to meet the course expectations including regular attendance, timely performances of assigned responsibilities, and the quality and appropriateness of behavior. In such probationary status, in order to preserve confidentiality, course or clerkship directors will be notified of the fact that the student is on probation, but without reference to the student's psychiatric status—except if such discretion would compromise the welfare of patients.

6. When in the judgment of the Applicable Committee it is deemed appropriate or necessary to do so, a student's period of medical leave may be extended by the Applicable Committee for an additional period, up to six months (extended medical leave for psychiatric reasons). The transcript will show the start and end dates and record this period as "Medical Leave," and the student-on-leave remains on the roster (preserving housing, medical coverage, and other student amenities) for up to six months, after which other arrangements may become necessary.

7. A student may appeal the Applicable Committee's decision to place him/her on extended medical leave for psychiatric reasons within 10 days of notification of the decision, by written appeal to the Dean who may affirm, modify, or overrule the Applicable Committee's decision, or may return the matter to the Applicable Committee for further inquiry. If the student is unable to the satisfaction of the Applicable Committee for medical reasons to prepare the written appeal, the time to appeal may be extended for up to an additional 20 days for a total of 30 days.

8. Students placed on extended medical leave for psychiatric reasons who wish to be considered for reinstatement must consent and request that their treating psychiatrist inform the Applicable Committee: a) of attendance at therapeutic sessions; b) whether the student has a realistic understanding of his/her illness; c) of the student's readiness to undergo the academic and emotional stresses of the academic program curriculum if reinstated. The treating psychiatrist must also inform the Applicable Committee of the student's treatment regimen and attest that the regimen is stable. Neither the academic program's dean or program director nor the Applicable Committee may specifically require an individual to obtain psychiatric treatment; however, ongoing treatment may be designated as a condition for continued participation in the academic program. Should such recommendation be made, the student requesting reinstatement after medical leave for psychiatric reasons will be expected to remain in psychiatric treatment in order to remain enrolled in the his/her academic program. All parties are reminded that our obligation to the welfare of patients, current and future, is paramount.

9. Prior to reinstatement, the student must consent and be evaluated by a psychiatrist selected (or approved) by Einstein, who will report to the Applicable Committee as to the student's readiness to re-enter the curriculum. The consent form shall provide that this evaluation is neither confidential nor privileged as would otherwise be customary in a doctor-patient relationship and must hold the evaluator harmless.

10. After reviewing the information from the student's treating psychiatrist as well as the information from the separate evaluating psychiatrist and any other relevant information, the Applicable Committee will decide whether the student may be reinstated. The student will again be permitted to make a presentation to the Applicable Committee if he or she so desires. In deciding whether to reinstate the student, the Applicable Committee shall consider, among other issues, whether the problems that precipitated the leave are resolved, whether the student will be able to function properly after graduation as a physician, etc.

11. If the Applicable Committee decides that the student is not ready for reinstatement, it may recommend extension of medical leave for psychiatric purposes for an additional period of up to six months. The Applicable Committee may also recommend, because of the nature of the student's behavior during the period of observation or extended leave, that the student should be withdrawn from the academic program.
The student will be notified of the Applicable Committee's recommendation within seven days and may appeal the recommendation of the Applicable Committee within 10 days of notification. Such appeal shall be by written statement to the Dean, who may affirm or overrule the Applicable Committee's decision or return the matter to the Applicable Committee for further inquiry.

12. Reinstated students will be assigned to a curriculum designed by the academic program’s dean or program director. If a student returns in the clinical curriculum at the discretion of the academic program’s dean or program director, he/she may be required to take all rotations under the supervision of Einstein faculty during the first year of return. Any off-campus electives will require specific prior approval by the academic program’s dean or program director.

13. Accommodations for psychiatric conditions consist substantially of, 1) an initial period of medical/psychiatric leave, particularly in cases where these symptoms are of new onset, and 2) the opportunity to avail oneself of psychiatric and psychological treatment resources. Should a student forego either of these (i.e., not take an initial leave in response to acute symptoms, and/or not avail him/herself of intensive, ongoing treatment and monitoring) for any reason, subsequent difficulties that may have been averted by either of these measures may not be acceptable. Participation in and adherence to treatment(s) are the sole responsibility of the student in conjunction with the student's professional caregiver(s) and immediate family. A student's failure to take full advantage of treatment resources (or time off-duty) while continuing to have difficulties may weigh heavily as an indicator of a persistent pattern of poor judgment.

14. For students in the medical or MD-PhD program, to assure patient safety, at the discretion of the Deans for Students, clerkship leaders of the rotations to which a reinstated student is assigned will be advised that the student requires special support and observation of his/her performance. Although the student's privacy is of great concern, the CSPPS and its leadership will not compromise patient care in favor of maintaining that privacy.

15. A student may remain on extended medical leave for psychiatric illness for a maximum of one year, after which time the student will be dismissed from Einstein. The decision to recommend withdrawal will be based on the documented persistence, despite treatment, of aberrations of judgment or behavior that adversely affect clinical, interpersonal, community, and/or general social functions and relationships. Dismissal may also be recommended because of the student's failure to meet his/her obligations as outlined by this policy.

16. A student reinstated after extended medical leave for psychiatric reasons who does not meet course expectations, including regular attendance and timely performance of assigned responsibilities, and/or whose quality and appropriateness of behavior are adversely affected due to recurrence of psychiatric illness, may be dismissed from Einstein. The student will be permitted to make a presentation to the Applicable Committee at this time if he/she so desires. A student may appeal the Applicable Committee's recommendation for dismissal within 10 days of notification of the decision by written appeal to the Dean.

E. Maternity and Paternity Leave

1. Upon request, maternity and paternity leave will be granted routinely in accordance with the relevant academic policies of the student's academic program. This applies as well to the adoption of a child. The effect on curricular programs and requirements will be minimized as far as possible, in recognition of the fact that many courses and rotations are only available at certain points in the year, and postponing such courses/rotations may complicate schedule planning and lead to a postponement of one's graduation date. The senior year of medical school has a two-month cushion intended to avert the need to postpone graduation for maternity reasons during that period of the curriculum.

2. Students are encouraged to meet with his/her academic program's staff and dissertation mentor, if applicable, when delivery dates are known, as advance planning can often minimize any effects on the progression through the medical school curriculum. If a physician recommends additional prenatal or postpartum excusal from clinical/academic duties, this will be granted for a period of up to six months, after which more specific arrangements may be necessary. Students remain on the student roster (preserving housing privileges, medical insurance, and other amenities) during maternity/paternity leave and approved extensions of same.
The transcript will reflect the leave of absence in accordance with the relevant academic policies of the student's academic program.

F. Family Medical Leave

Students sometimes request emergent leave to assist in the care of an ill family member, or after the loss of a family member. Such requests will be granted unconditionally by Einstein for the period of up to two months. Variable with the timing of said leave, there are unavoidable effects on curricular participation that may lead to the postponement of graduation or other scheduling issues. Additional time on Family Medical Leave will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the academic program's dean or program director. In general, the student may remain on the roster (preserving housing privileges, medical insurance, and other amenities) for up to six months of an approved leave. The transcript will reflect the leave of absence in accordance with the relevant academic policies of the student's academic program.

Effective Date

September 1, 2017

Policy Management and Responsibilities

The Office of the Dean is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Executive Dean is the Responsible Executive, and each academic program's dean or program director are the Responsible Officers for the management of this policy.