



## Timetable for BME MSTP/PhD Students

The MSTP/PhD is an accelerated program compared to the PhD, with the goal of completing the thesis in three or four years. This process starts during the second year of medical school.

	Program Milestones	Coursework Milestones
<b>Year 0: Semester 2</b>	Identify Faculty Advisor Complete Step exams	8 credits research (BME 890)
<b>Year 0: Summer</b>		2 credits research (BME 890)
<b>Year 1: Semester 1</b>		8 credits of required courses (including BME 601: Responsible Conduct of Research) 4 credits research (BME 890)
<b>Year 1: Semester 2</b>	Qualifying Exam: Depth	6 credits of required courses 6 credits research (BME 890)
<b>Year 1: Summer</b>	Qualifying Exam: Breadth	2 credits research (BME 890)
<b>Year 2: Semester 3</b>	Preliminary Exam	3 credits of required courses 9 credits research (BME 890) MS degree filing
<b>Year 2: Semester 4</b>		3 credits research (BME 990)
<b>Year 2: Summer</b>		3 credits research (BME 990)
<b>Year 3: Semester 5</b>	Annual committee review	3 credits research (BME 990)
<b>Year 3: Semester 6</b>	Target for thesis defense	3 credits research (BME 990)
<b>Semester of defense</b>	Schedule exit interview	

For students that require additional time to develop their research project, the absolute latest that exams can be completed is the same as the deadline for the standard PhD timetable. For completion in four years, we recommend the qualifying exams occur in the summer after year 1 (depth) and fall of year 2 (breadth), with the preliminary exam in the 4th or 5th semester.



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### Advisor

All graduate students need to identify a faculty advisor within the first semester of matriculation—for most RA/PA this will be the faculty member that provides funding. The advisor must be a primary BME faculty or a BME affiliate. If the advisor is a BME affiliate, the student must identify a primary BME faculty to serve as co-advisor. If there are questions, direct them to the Associate Chair for Graduate Advising for BME.

### Course Requirements

- Two semesters of Seminar in Biomedical Engineering (BME 701, 0 credits)
- One semester of Responsible Conduct of Research (BME 601, 2 credits)
- At least 15 credits that are graduate level (700 or above or has the graduate coursework attribute as seen in Course Search & Enroll). These courses must:
  - ◊ Include 12 credits of engineering (RCR does not count)
  - ◊ Define an area of specialization
  - ◊ Complete one set of PhD Track coursework requirements (minus the bioscience and elective requirements)
- At least 30 credits of research (only BME 790, 890, and 990 count towards this total)

### Qualifying Exams

The qualifying exams consist of a depth and breadth exam. Each PhD student arranges a date during the **summer of their 1st year** with their Qualifying Examination committee to take the depth exam. The breadth exam occurs the semester after the student has passed the depth exam.

Students may retake either the depth or the breadth exam one time. For the depth exam, the retake must take place in the next semester. For the breadth exam, the retake must occur within two months of the original breadth exam. **All qualifying exams must be completed prior to the start of the 4th semester.** These timelines have some flexibility for students planning to take more than 3 years for the PhD (see note under timetable).

### Filing for MS Degree

Students may file for a MS degree once they have completed 17 credits of graduate coursework and 13 credits of research.



## Timetable for BME PhD Students

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### Preliminary Exams

The Preliminary Examination is an oral examination based upon a student's written proposal and consists of a detailed plan to carry out the Ph.D. thesis. Students must take their preliminary **within one year of passing the Qualifying Exams**, and least 18 months before their final defense.

Students who pass the Preliminary Examination achieve dissertator status the following semester. Dissertators enroll in only three research credits each semester and work towards completing their thesis project.

### Annual Reviews

Students will meet with their thesis committee each year until the completion of the program to determine that they are maintaining satisfactory progress. The student will arrange this meeting, which consists of a short presentation of progress since the last meeting and discussion with the committee. The student will report the committee's decision (satisfactory/unsatisfactory progress) to the Graduate Student Services Coordinator by e-mail (with their advisor cc'd).

### Defense

The Defense is an oral examination based upon a student's thesis. MSTP students typically schedule their defense near the end of their 3rd or 4th year in the program. Doctoral students have a maximum of five years from the date of passing their preliminary examinations to take their final oral examination and submit their dissertation.

### Leave Policies

Program timeline requirements will be adjusted as needed in accordance with College of Engineering leave policies, including parental leave and extended medical leave.