

UC Berkeley – UCSF
Graduate Program in Bioengineering

Graduate Student Handbook
2018-2019

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1. INTRODUCTION

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) has long been a center of research and graduate training in biomedical sciences. The University of California, Berkeley is universally acknowledged for excellence in engineering, physical and life sciences. The close proximity of the two institutions has fostered numerous collaborations among faculty members on the two campuses and has introduced quantitative approaches to addressing fundamental problems in biological and clinical science. It was in recognition of this synergy that scientists on the two campuses proposed the formation of a joint graduate group in Bioengineering.

This fully integrated educational program was approved in 1983 and is authorized to offer Ph.D. degrees conferred jointly by the Graduate Divisions of both campuses. Over the past thirty-plus years the UC Berkeley – UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering (“the Program”) has become one of the pre-eminent educational programs in the country and is well known for the diversity and excellence of the training it provides.

Participation in the Program is interdepartmental as well as intercampus, as it combines the research activities of faculty from more than twenty departments from all four professional schools at UCSF (Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy) with six departments from the College of Engineering at Berkeley and several non-engineering departments such as Molecular and Cell Biology, Psychology, Optometry, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Integrative Biology, Plant and Microbial Biology and Public Health.

The objective of the Program is to offer Ph.D. degrees, and admission depends upon a students’ commitment to a program of study that allows them to complete that goal, although some students do obtain a Master’s degree during their tenure. Doctoral students are expected to learn to bring the methods of modern engineering to bear on problems in biology and medicine, and also to learn how to teach others to do the same.

This Graduate Student Handbook describes the unique character and policies of the Graduate Program in Bioengineering, and highlights their overlap and interface with policies governing UCSF, UC Berkeley, and the larger UC system. All students admitted to the Program are subject to the policies of either Campus or the University at large, which supersede those of the Program.



2. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

An Executive Committee whose members comprise faculty from both campuses and representatives from the student body oversees the Program. Reference the Executive Committee page [here](#) for the list of current faculty, staff, and student members. Advising, curriculum development and admissions are directed by faculty committees that are drawn from experienced members of the Program and represent a wide range of research interests. Dedicated administrative staff at UCSF and Berkeley provide a bridge between the faculty, students, and Graduate Divisions on both campuses and manage the daily operations of the Program.

The Program works hand in hand with the academic units on the two campuses that have been formed to support faculty members with a primary focus on Bioengineering. The UC Berkeley Department of Bioengineering, formed as part of the College of Engineering in 1998, oversees a vibrant undergraduate program of approximately 400 students, as well as the Berkeley side of the Program. The UCSF Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences (BTS) houses the academic and administrative support for the Program at UCSF. Exemplifying the collaborative and cross-disciplinary nature of the Program and UCSF, BTS was formed in 2009 as a joint department between the UCSF Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine.

Although resources are allocated separately on the two campuses, the curriculum and educational program in Bioengineering are fully integrated, with joint participation from faculty serving on committees and mentoring students.

3. ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

Academic Requirements

Entering students are expected to have a B.A. or B.S. in engineering, biology, or other science. Typically, this includes a two-year college mathematics sequence, a one-year sequence in each of physics, chemistry and computer science, and extensive upper-division work in either engineering or biology. The mathematical level should include calculus, differential equations, and linear algebra. Outstanding students who are lacking in some of these areas may be admitted with the condition that they complete any necessary undergraduate coursework while in the Program.

The Program's academic requirements are discussed in more detail below. The normative time to graduation is 5 years, with approximately 4 semesters spent in completing rotations, formal course work and the qualifying examination followed by 6 semesters performing research, culminating in the dissertation. Students entering with a Master's degree may be able to shorten this by one or two semesters based upon previous coursework and research that they have completed. Please note, Berkeley operates on a semester-based academic calendar, while UCSF uses a quarter system.

Summary of Requirements

Graduation from the Program is dependent on the successful completion of the following requirements. More details, including necessary forms, can be found in the subsequent sections.

1. Course Requirements and Program of Study

All students in the Program must complete the following course requirements:

- A. Area Requirements: (breadth requirements, many satisfied by previous coursework)
- B. Major Area and Minor Area: (depth requirements completed by graduate courses)
Major = 16 semester (24 quarter) units. Minor = 8 semester (12 quarter) units.
- C. First Year Seminars: Bioengineering 200 (UCB) and Bioengineering 280/281 (UCSF)
- D. Bioengineering Teaching Techniques: Bioengineering 301 (UCB)
- E. Ethics: Bioengineering 201 (UCB) or equivalent, taken in the first and fourth years

2. Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements

Students are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in academic coursework.

3. First Year Research Rotations and Research Mentor Selection

Students complete three research rotations with Program core faculty members during their first year in the Program. After completion of these rotations at the end of the spring semester, students select a rotation mentor as their dissertation Research Mentor.

4. Graduate Student Instructor/Teaching Assistantship

All students must complete a minimum of one 10-hour Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) assignment. Can be completed at either UCB or UCSF. Does not need to be a BioE course.

5. Qualifying Examination

Students identify qualifying exam committee members during their 2nd year and hold the qualifying exam (written and oral presentation) by the end of the Fall of their 3rd year.

6. Advancement to Candidacy

After successful completion of the qualifying exam, students submit the proper Graduate Division and Program forms to formally advance to candidacy.

7. Research Conference Presentation

Students must present (poster or a talk) at a research conference at least once. This can include presenting at the Program's annual retreat.

8. Annual Progress Reports

Students are required to meet with their academic advisor and/or dissertation committee each year and submit annual progress reports.

9. Dissertation

Students write a dissertation compiling the results of their graduate research. Upon written approval of their dissertation committee, students file their dissertation with the Graduate Division of their home campus.

10. Exit Seminar

Graduating students hold a concluding research seminar to present their graduate work.

3.1 Course Requirements and Program of Study

The Program of Study is a plan of course work required to meet a student's specific degree goals. The Program of Study is developed in consultation with the student's Graduate Adviser and submitted to the administrative office of the student's Home Campus by April of the first year. While this form must be submitted in the first year, it can be modified in subsequent years as necessary. In its entirety, the Program of Study includes Major and Minor areas of study, general Area Requirements, a set of required Bioengineering seminars, and an ethics course. These items are detailed below.

Area Requirements

All students must complete the Area Requirements listed in Table below at some time during their academic career. Courses may be selected from appropriate offerings at Berkeley or UCSF and are usually completed in the first year. Students may also apply courses taken prior to

entering the program toward Area Requirements, if approved by their Graduate Adviser. All proposed courses should be listed on the Area Requirements Form, which must be updated annually to reflect changes. The Area Requirements form must be completed and submitted with approving signatures to the Program Administrator on the Home Campus during the Spring Semester of the first two years.

Some of the courses used to satisfy Area Requirements may also be counted toward the Major or Minor areas (see next section), but they must be taken while enrolled as a student in the Program.

Students should consult their Graduate Advisers in selecting the Major and Minor Fields of study so that their Program of Study provides a strong knowledge base in biology and engineering. In planning for the Major and Minor, it should be noted that Berkeley is on the semester system and UCSF is on the quarter system and that 1.5 quarter units are counted as equivalent to 1 semester unit.

Table 1: Area Requirements

Area	Semester Units	Quarter Units
Anatomy, Physiology and Biology	9	13.5
Biochemistry, and Chemistry beyond General Chemistry	3	4.5
Engineering in a traditional discipline and Computer Science	7	10.5
Mathematics (beyond linear algebra and differential equations) and Statistics	2	3.0

Major and Minor Areas

The Program of Study identifies a Major field in which the student will complete sixteen semester units of graduate level coursework and a Minor field comprising eight units of graduate level or equivalent coursework exclusive of seminars and research. All of these courses should be taken on a graded basis. There are the following exceptions:

1. Students who already hold a Master’s Degree or professional degree (M.D., D.D.S., or D.V.M.) when entering the program may use courses from their prior degree program toward their Minor field, if approved by the Head Graduate Adviser. In this case, the Major field must be in an area complementary to the student’s prior training.
2. The major area of study should be composed mainly of graduate course work; however up to six units of undergraduate upper division courses toward the major area of study may be

applied. The inclusion of any upper division courses requires approval from the Head Graduate Adviser and must be justified in writing.

3. Whenever possible, courses should be letter-graded. A course with the S/U option is only considered acceptable for meeting the requirements toward the Major field if the student is able to present sufficient justification for the inclusion of the course. A request for exception for such courses must be submitted in writing to the student's Graduate Adviser and approved by the Head Graduate Adviser.

First Year Seminars

First year students attend Fall semester seminar courses, Bioengineering 200 (Berkeley), and Bioengineering 281 (UCSF). The purpose of these seminars is to introduce students to the broad range of bioengineering research that is associated with biological applications. The seminars offer an opportunity for first year students to be exposed to a diverse range of Bioengineering research areas and to core Program faculty with whom they may be interested in conducting a research rotation.

Bioengineering Teaching Techniques

First year students are required to take Bioengineering 301 (Berkeley, Fall semester), which offers training in effective teaching methods. This course is a requirement to hold a Graduate Student Instructor position (see Section 3.4: Graduate Student Instructor/Teaching Assistantship).

Ethics

Students take Bioengineering 201 (UCB) or equivalent in the first and fourth years, or as necessary. This requirement adheres to the NIH guidelines for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training.

3.2 Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements

Graduate students are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all academic coursework and must make satisfactory progress toward their degree. Eligibility for certain extramural fellowships typically requires a GPA of 3.6 and above.

The "official" Grade Point Average (GPA) is posted on the Home Campus transcript. Students are responsible for reviewing both campuses' transcripts to ensure the grades are properly posted and classes taken are accurately listed. Contact the appropriate registrar's office for questions or issues regarding transcripts.

Berkeley transcripts are available on-line at CalCentral: <http://calcentral.berkeley.edu>

UCSF transcripts are available on-line at the UCSF Student Portal:

<https://saa.ucsf.edu/studentportal>

Full-time Student Status

Graduate students are required to maintain full-time student status at all times during the academic year. For all students, full-time status is considered enrollment in 8 quarter units or 12 semester units of graduate or upper division courses each quarter / semester. Units may be formal course work or research units.

The Graduate Division policy is that full-time graduate study is incompatible with full-time employment. During the academic year, the University may not employ graduate students more than 50% time in any capacity. Employment at 100% time is permitted during the summer term. Registered graduate students should not be appointed to any academic title other than those appropriate for students, e.g. Graduate Student Researcher, Graduate Student Instructor, Teaching Assistant, or Reader.

3.3 First Year Research Rotations and Research Mentor Selection

The objective of the research rotation is to allow students to become familiar with different areas of research, learn new experimental techniques, obtain experience in unique research laboratories, and ultimately to identify a lab in which to conduct dissertation research. The research being performed during a rotation may correspond to the initial stages of a thesis project or may be on a totally different topic. Students perform rotations in core Program faculty members' laboratories during the first year and should join a research group by the beginning of the second year. Rotation projects should involve independent research. Each student's performance during a rotation is evaluated by the rotation sponsor (faculty member), who submits a written report at the conclusion of the rotation period. Progress is monitored by the Head Graduate Advisors, who review rotation evaluation reports and assign course credit for work performed. Students will be invited to present their results to faculty and peers at the end of each semester. Each rotation should be independent of other rotations; two rotations with the same research mentor are not allowed.

First Year Research Rotation Selection

Students should actively seek rotation projects and interview core faculty during the month of September of the first year. They should also consult with their advisers to help identify potential opportunities. Prior to starting a research rotation, the student and proposed faculty sponsor must complete a Research Rotation Authorization form indicating the research rotation project title and confirming the rotation commitments of time, support and resources. This form is available below in the Appendix of this Handbook, and must be signed by the Graduate Adviser to validate fulfillment of the rotation requirement. Research Rotation Authorization forms are due by the Monday prior to the start of each rotation period.

Students should perform three 12-week rotations in different Program faculty laboratories during the first year. The rotation schedule corresponds roughly with the UCSF quarter system and should facilitate placement of most students in the thesis lab by July 1 of the first academic year. Actual dates will vary by year and will be clearly publicized. The rotation schedule is given below:

1st Rotation: September 24 - November 19, 2018

2nd Rotation: January 3 – February 28, 2019

3rd Rotation: March 8 - April 26, 2019

Dissertation lab selection: May 3, 2019

While the goal of a rotation is ultimately to select a lab for dissertation research, there should be no immediate commitment from either the student or faculty mentor during the rotation period. It should be understood, however, that faculty who host rotation students in their labs must be potentially capable of supporting the student in subsequent dissertation work.

Upon completion of the third rotation, students should finalize dissertation lab selection. Students are encouraged to speak with each faculty member with whom they have an interest in pursuing dissertation research. Students should discuss potential dissertation projects, lab space, and availability of support (which may vary depending on the number of other students seeking positions in the same lab). All options should be carefully considered by the student before the selection is made, and students are strongly encouraged to consult with other BEAST students, rotation lab members, and Academic Advisers as needed. More information can be found in the Research Mentor Selection section below.

In rare cases, students who are unable to arrange a match with one of the three rotation labs may perform a fourth rotation with the approval and guidance of their Academic Adviser.

Rotation Reporting Requirements

The student and faculty sponsor must complete a Research Rotation Evaluation form that outlines the work performed and provides an assessment of the experience at the end of the rotation. This will assist the academic advisers in evaluating student progress and assigning course credit. Students may also present their work in more depth at the Annual Retreat or give a presentation as part of the Bioengineering Student Talks series (BEST), described in more detail in Section 4.2.

Faculty Rotation Support

Faculty sponsors should provide the appropriate experimental infrastructure to rotation students, including workspace and access to equipment, reagents, and supplies. Faculty

sponsors in general do not provide financial support (stipend or fee) to first year students, except under special circumstances as described below.

A rotation conducted in the second year may require faculty commitment to support some or all of the stipend and/or fees during the rotation period. Faculty who sponsor students for admission must also be prepared to support students during rotations, even if performed in another lab. Even in cases where the faculty sponsor provides financial support to the student, it should be recognized that research rotations are meant to satisfy an academic purpose and should not be viewed as a means for obtaining additional salary support.

In general, the same stipend level guaranteed by the Program will be maintained during rotations. Additional information about rotations and rotation policies can be obtained from the Head Graduate Advisers and program staff.

The Program's administrators will contact faculty sponsors to provide instructions for paying students as appropriate. To guarantee a smooth transition from one source of support to another, students and faculty are encouraged to notify the administrators of any planned rotations as early as possible.

Research Mentor Selection

The Research Mentor is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the student's research training, which is an extremely critical task. The Graduate Divisions on both campuses require that the student choose a Research Mentor / Dissertation Chair who is a member of the Academic Senate, and the Research Mentor must be a core member of the Program. Students who wish to perform research in the laboratory of someone who is not a member of the Academic Senate must have a co-mentor who is a member of the Academic Senate and serves as the Dissertation Chair or Co-Chair.

The choice of an appropriate Research Mentor is a critical factor in each student's success. Rotations are an opportunity to investigate whether a particular mentor and laboratory are a good fit. Resources for selecting Research Mentors include Graduate Advisers, Head Graduate Advisers, Peer Advisers, research group meetings, and the list of faculty research interests on the Program's web site. Most students select a Research Mentor at the end of their first year after three rotations, and students are required to select a Research Mentor by the middle of their second year. Upon doing so, students must submit the Dissertation Lab / Mentor Commitment form to the administrator at their Home Campus. This form, found in the Appendix of this Handbook, outlines and affirms the financial commitment being made by the Mentor to support the student's dissertation research.

3.4 Graduate Student Instructor/Teaching Assistantship

Graduate students are required to serve as a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) for at least one semester as part of their professional development. Students typically complete this requirement after their second year, but may do so at any time during their training. Assignments may include lecture or laboratory courses, generally based on students' preferences. The requirement may be met by an appointment in any campus department, however the student must notify the group. A typical GSI assignment is 10 hours per week (25% appointment) and provides part of the student's stipend and fees during that period. If the student is being paid on an extramural fellowship, the GSI stipend may be paid in addition to the regular stipend. To gain additional teaching experience, advanced graduate students may serve as a GSI for additional terms and may organize seminars for junior and senior level undergraduates. Initial preferences for meeting the GSI requirement and additional plans for teaching should be discussed with the students' Graduate Advisor and Research Mentor.

Students must enroll in Berkeley BioE 301, Teaching Techniques for Bioengineering, or its equivalent in another department, before or during the year in which they serve as a GSI. Completion of the requirement will be monitored by verification of a GSI appointment in the payroll system and by student evaluations submitted at the end of the term. Additional requirements for GSIs include attendance at one of the Berkeley Teaching Conferences held before each semester and the completion of the GSI Professional Standards and Ethics Online Course.

3.5 Qualifying Examination

An oral qualifying examination must be taken by the Fall Semester of each student's third year; any student who misses this deadline may be subject to academic probation. Students who fail either Part I or II must take a second examination approximately three months following the failure. Passage of the examination is a required for advancing to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

Qualifying Examination Committee

The oral examination is administered by a committee of four faculty members selected by the student by the end of their 2nd year, and who agree to serve on the student's committee. Students select their committee members with the advice of their Research Mentor, Graduate Adviser, lab members, and other BEAST students. The committee should reflect the breadth of the student's background, with expertise in the student's proposed research area and/or Program of Study. The requirements are:

1. All 4 committee members must be members of their academic senate.
2. Three committee members should be core faculty members of the Program, found here: <http://bioegrad.berkeley.edu/faculty>.
3. The committee chair must be both a core member of the Program and of the academic senate of the student's Home Campus.

4. An additional non-chair member of the committee should be a core Program member from the student's Home Campus.
5. One committee member must be from outside the Program (i.e. non-core faculty), and also must belong to the Academic Senate on the student's Home Campus. This includes, but is not limited to, Affiliate faculty of the Program.
6. One committee member must be a core member of the Program from the non-home ("opposite") campus of the student, so that both campuses (Berkeley and UCSF) are represented on the committee. Both biomedical (or biological) and engineering disciplines should be represented.
7. The student's Research Mentor may not serve on the qualifying committee.

These requirements are reflected in the standard committee below:

Member 1 (Committee Chair): Core member from student's home campus

Member 2: Core member from opposite campus

Member 3: Core member from student's home campus

Member 4: Non-core (outside or affiliate) member from student's home campus

Students in rare circumstances that are seeking a qualifying exam committee outside of these requirements should consult with their Head Graduate Advisor to put forth a petition to the Program's executive committee, and, in some situations, the student's home campus Graduate Division*.

To formally constitute a committee, students first complete the Program's "Constitution of Qualifying Examination Committee" form found in the Appendix of this handbook. After receiving Program approval, students must then submit a petition to their Home Campus Graduate Division to formally constitute their committee. This must be done at least three weeks prior to the exam date. Home Campus Graduate Division petitions to formally constitute a Committee are found online:

UCSF: Found on UCSF Student Portal

Berkeley: Found on student's CalCentral

Information about membership in the schools' academic senates can be found at:

<http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/bylaws/2-membership>

<http://www.ucsf.edu/senate/0-faq/index.html#anchor02>

*A student may petition for one faculty member who is not a member of the Academic Senate.

UCSF: <https://graduate.ucsf.edu/files/general-petition>

Berkeley: <http://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/degrees-policy/#f49-exceptions-to-policies-on-committee-membership>

Content of the Examination

In this examination, students demonstrate their ability to recognize and attack research problems of fundamental importance, to propose appropriate theoretical, experimental or

computational approaches to address these problems, and to display comprehensive knowledge of their disciplinary area and related subjects.

Part I of the Examination

The first part of the qualifying exam is organized around the presentation of a research proposal for a project that would last 6-12 months and should not cover the student's entire thesis. Written proposals should be 3-4 pages in length, outlining the general goals of the project, their significance and the methods used to approach them; and submitted to the committee three weeks before the exam. The exam itself consists of an oral presentation which is typically (but not necessarily) presented in Powerpoint. Slides should be easily readable (22-24 point minimum font suggested) and references properly cited. Most students present approximately 15-20 slides, plus a few backup slides.

Q&A: The student's presentation will be interrupted with in-depth questions probing the student's grasp of the basic challenges and principles underlying the project, the details of their methods and competing approaches, the statistical methods employed, and the significance of the project within a wider context. Involved questions are often answered at the chalkboard or whiteboard. The Q&A is time intensive. Part I typically takes approximately 2 hours. The most common failure mode is to inadequately answer the questions of the committee.

Sample Structure of the Qualifying Exam Research Proposal Part I

While students may choose to depart from this sample structure, below is a typical Part I talk structure. The organization listed below is suggested and should not be taken as a rule. STUDENTS SHOULD DISCUSS THE EXACT REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS WITH THEIR COMMITTEE, ESPECIALLY THEIR CHAIR, PRIOR TO THE EXAM.

1. **Motivation for Project:** What broad clinical, engineering, or biological problem do you plan on tackling and why is it important? Include information on your clinical, engineering or scientific collaborator(s) and how they will mentor you.
Example: Type II diabetes has high morbidity, mortality and health cost burden.
2. **Open Challenge or Scientific Question to be Addressed.** Define the challenge your project will address and explain why solving it would be enabling in a clinical, engineering, or scientific sense.
Example 1: The prevention of fouling of *in vivo* glucose sensors would allow for closed-loop control of a diabetic patient's glucose levels, alleviating the disease's trauma.
Example 2: Control of stem cell differentiation into insulin-secreting cells would make possible autologous pancreatic transplant therapies.
3. **Engineering Specifications and/or Scientific Study Design Constraints.** Here, you should provide quantitative specifications for devices, chemistry, algorithm or simulation. For scientific studies, specify the size required for a statistically reliable study.
Example 1: A useful *in vivo* glucose sensor needs 5% accuracy, 1-minute temporal response, safe *in vivo* recharging, and 1-year lifetime.
Example 2: Optically imaged transplant stem cells must be detectable *in vivo* at 10^5 cells/mm³ with 100-micron resolution and a scan time of less than 1 minute.

4. **Prior Work on the Problem.** Review and explain fundamentally why others have not fully solved the open challenge or answered the scientific question.
5. **Approach.** Introduce your approach with a high-level description that explains why your method or your study should fundamentally be superior to competing approaches. Disclose any drawbacks to your approach and planned workarounds.
6. **Implementation.** Describe the implementation of your approach with a detailed description, including progress and lessons learned.
7. **Preliminary Findings.** Show any preliminary data (if applicable) including theory, simulations and measured data with appropriate controls. Justify your choice of control experiments. Describe your plans for collecting statistically meaningful data, mitigating risk, and improving performance. Note any conference or journal publications that you have submitted.
8. **Future Work.** How will you extend your project and proposal's results to the broader challenge? List your key deliverables (e.g., presentations, manuscript submissions, patent disclosures, etc.) on a timeline.

Part II of the Examination

Part II consists of questions exploring relevant areas of science and engineering, usually related to subjects of the major and minor identified by the student. Also included are questions pertaining to statistical and ethical aspects of Bioengineering. Part II of the exam typically takes 15-30 minutes.

Responsibilities of the Chair of Qualifying Examination

1. The student should select the Chair at least 2-3 months before the anticipated exam date.
2. The Chair should meet with the student to discuss the composition of the qualifying committee at least 2-3 months prior to the exam.
3. The Chair should ensure that the proposal (3-4 pages in length, outlining the general goals of the project, their significance and the methods used to approach them) is distributed to the committee members at least 4 weeks before the exam to allow sufficient time for feedback to the student.
4. The Chair should explain the format of the exam (explained above) to the student.
5. The Chair needs to remind the student to complete the Graduate Division procedures and documentation at least 3 weeks before the proposed date of the exam.
6. The Chair needs to obtain the student's file and transcripts a few days before the exam and take them to the exam (from Bioengineering Program Offices).
7. Following the exam, the Chair needs to discuss the outcome with the student.
8. If the student fails, a second examination has to be arranged. This final exam can be limited to the section that was failed initially if agreed upon by the committee (all members of the committee have to be present and have to take part in the exam).
9. The Chair needs to strongly advise the student to interact with all committee members and their research mentor before the re-take.

3.6 Advancement to Candidacy

After students have passed their qualifying examinations, they must submit forms to advance to candidacy. Students should submit these as soon as possible, and are required to do so typically within six months of passing the Qualifying Exam. Delays in advancing to candidacy may jeopardize the validity of the examination and limit the time in candidacy. At this stage, advancing to candidacy simply requires completing the Graduate Division and Program forms that identify the members of the Dissertation Committee and paying the candidacy fee (\$90). See Section 3.9 Dissertation (Selecting Dissertation Committee) for more details.

Basic requirements to Advance to Candidacy in the Program include:

1. Passing the qualifying examination.
2. Maintaining the minimum 3.0 grade point average in all upper division and graduate coursework taken in graduate standing with no more than two courses having been graded as incomplete.

Please note: Non-resident tuition (NRT) is waived after advancement to candidacy.

More information, and the required Graduate Division forms, are found below:

UCSF: <https://graduate.ucsf.edu/forms> (and on Student Portal)

Berkeley: <http://grad.berkeley.edu/academic-progress/forms/> (and on CalCentral)

3.7 Research Conference Presentation

Students are required to present at a research conference at least once. This requirement may be fulfilled by a poster presentation or a research talk. This requirement includes, but is not limited to, a research presentation at the annual Program retreat. For more information about the annual Program retreat, please see section 4.1 Annual Retreat. Students should report the date, location, and presentation title on their Annual Progress Report forms.

3.8 Annual Progress Reports

Students are required to meet with their academic advisor and/or dissertation committee each year and submit annual progress reports. These can be found in the Appendix, with additional information found in Section 5.2 Required Forms and Documentation.

3.9 Dissertation

Students complete a dissertation based on original laboratory research. In order to initiate this process, students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Advancement to candidacy

2. Selection of a Dissertation Committee
3. Preparation of a dissertation proposal

Selecting the Dissertation Committee

The Program requires that the Dissertation Committee consist of three to five faculty members representing both campuses. The Graduate Divisions of both UCSF and Berkeley require that the Chair and two other members of the Dissertation Committee, designated as readers, are members of the Academic Senate at UCSF or Berkeley. The fourth and fifth members of the Dissertation Committee are intended to give breadth of input to the dissertation but do not sign off on the dissertation. These non-signing members should be listed on the internal Program form, but not on the form submitted to the Graduate Divisions.

Composition of the Dissertation Committee is subject to the approval of the Home Campus Graduate Dean and is governed by these Graduate Division rules:

1. The Dissertation Chair may be any core member of the Bioengineering Graduate Program faculty who is also a member of the Academic Senate on either campus. (In most cases, the Research Mentor becomes the Dissertation Chair.)
2. Faculty members within the Program who are not Academic Senate members (such as Adjunct or Clinical faculty) may not serve as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee or be designated as a reader, but may serve on the Committee as a co-adviser if recommended by the Bioengineering Executive Committee and approved by the Dean of the Graduate Division on their Home Campus.
 - At UCSF the Graduate Dean must be petitioned using a General Petition Form (all degrees): [General Petition Form](#)
 - For UC Berkeley, the petition procedure is explained at: <http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/faq.shtml#4>
3. If a student wishes to work with a member of the faculty at UCSF or Berkeley who is not a member of the Bioengineering Graduate Program, they must obtain approval of the Executive Committee.
4. One of the readers on the Dissertation Committee must be a member of the academic senate from the student's Home Campus who is not a member of the Graduate Program (this person is referred to as 'the outside member').

Preparing the Dissertation Proposal

In consultation with their Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair, students submit a research proposal to the Dissertation Committee for approval prior to formally commencing the research. This is a document that outlines what will be accomplished in the dissertation project and should be filed within six months of passing the Qualifying Examination. It must be signed by all members of the Dissertation Committee and should be updated as necessary.

Students are required to meet annually with their Dissertation Committees to discuss their research project, review results, and chart directions for completing their dissertation.

Filing the Dissertation

Details for preparing the dissertation are available from the Graduate Divisions and are on the graduate division's websites. When requesting a title page at the respective Graduate Division, it is necessary to identify oneself as being part of the intercampus group in order to have both campuses listed on the title page and diploma. A copy of the dissertation must be turned into the Program office at the student's Home Campus upon completion. Prior to graduation, each student is required to present an exit seminar on the research results. This exit seminar is open to all Program faculty members and students as well as any other members of the University community.

3.10 Exit Seminar

Students will present a formal, minimum 45-minute seminar on the results of their research prior to graduation. This exit seminar will be open to Program faculty members, students, and others in the University community.

The following are guidelines for the exit seminar:

1. Dissertation complete and submitted, including depositing a copy with the Home Campus Program Administrator.
2. The student's Research Mentor will attend the exit seminar and is responsible for any costs associated with the exit seminar including room rental fees and refreshments.
3. Program faculty members and students will be invited to attend the exit seminar by the student, typically through an email to the Program listserv.
4. The student will notify their Home Campus Program administrative office of the date, time, and location of the exit seminar.

Exit Interview

Prior to graduation, students must complete Exit Interviews with:

1. Graduate Adviser, to review academic progress and career plans.
2. Head Graduate Adviser, to discuss career plans.
3. Program Administrator on the Home Campus, to ensure their files contain the final Program of Study, area requirements, transcripts, and dissertation title page. Students are asked at this time to provide future contact information for the alumni database, as well as current career information, such as employer, position title. Students are encouraged to report future career and contact changes to the Program administration.

3.11 Academic Probation and Dismissal Procedures

The following represents a summary statement regarding academic probation and dismissal procedures as applied for graduate students in the Berkeley-UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering. Additional specific details and guidelines of this policy can be found:

- UC Berkeley Grad Division:
<http://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/coursework-grading-probation-and-dismissal-policy/>
- UCSF Grad Division:
<http://senate.ucsf.edu/0-bylaws/stugr.html>
- UCSF Policy on Student Progress:
<http://graduate.ucsf.edu/policy-student-progress>

Criteria for satisfactory academic progress include the following:

- A specified grade-point average above a 3.0 in all upper division and graduate coursework taken in graduate standing
- No more than two courses having been graded as Incomplete
- UCSF Graduate Division requires Incomplete grades be removed within 1 year
- Required coursework, program of study, and program requirements completed in a timely fashion and at a given level of performance
- Completion/passing of the Qualifying Exam; according to the BioE Handbook section on Qualifying Examinations
- Acceptance by a faculty member who agrees to supervise the student's research and to serve as chair of the dissertation committee
- Advancement to candidacy within 6 months of completing the qualifying examination
- Satisfactory standing on yearly progress reports from dissertation committee and graduate advisors

Procedure for notification of insufficient progress includes the following in writing from the Head Graduate Advisor to the student:

- Nature of the problem or deficiency
- The steps to be taken to correct the deficiency
- A reasonable period (typically 6 months) in which to correct the problem or to show acceptable improvement
- The consequences of failing to resolve the deficiencies (e.g., dismissal)
- An approximate date on which the student's record will next be reviewed

Dismissal decisions will be made following an in-depth review of the student's academic performance conducted by the Program's Executive Committee. The Graduate Division will be notified that the student is undergoing an in-depth academic review for early dismissal consideration. Following the review, the dismissal process will adhere to the student's home campus guidelines.

4. OTHER

4.1 Annual Retreat

The Program holds an annual retreat for students and faculty at which research is showcased. The retreat is generally held over a weekend in the fall. It is an excellent opportunity to hear about contemporary Bioengineering research, seek out lab rotations, and hear of openings for rotations and dissertation projects. Research mentors pay the registration fees for students who are working in their labs. Students without a mentor (e.g. rotation students) attend using travel funds or by fee waiver. The Annual Retreat planning is spearheaded by a student Retreat Committee in coordination with the Program's Executive Committee. Attendance at the retreat is expected annually for all students.

4.2 Bioengineering Student Talks (BEST)

The Bioengineering Student Talks (BEST) are organized by student volunteers and provide opportunities for students to practice presenting their research to their colleagues. BESTs are scheduled during the academic school year and occur at both UCSF and Berkeley as needed. Students who wish to practice for their qualifying examination are encouraged to present, as are students from any year who are going to make presentations at scientific meetings, as well as graduating students preparing for research talks at job interviews.

Goals

- To learn about research projects of students in the group
- To receive peer critique of research and valuable feedback
- To gain public speaking experience
- To give practice talks for qualifying exams and conferences
- To learn to communicate to people who are not in your field

Format

Most BESTs are given as a computer presentation (e.g. Powerpoint slides), but students are encouraged to use a format relevant to them, including, but not limited to, a qualifying exam, conference talk, or a job talk. The presentations should be professional and include background information, the relevance of the project and an overview of the past, present or proposed research.

Content

- Practice of talks to be given at future conferences
- Pre-quals talks
- Rotation reports for 1st and 2nd year students
- Project/thesis proposals

Coordinators

One UCSF-based and one Berkeley-based BEAST student are elected each year as the BEST Coordinators and are responsible for arranging conference room bookings and ordering food. Students wishing to give a BEST presentation should work with the BEST Coordinators to schedule a date and time.

4.3 Graduation

Students are encouraged to participate in the commencement ceremonies held in May at both Berkeley and UCSF. Upon completing their dissertation, students become eligible to participate in the graduation ceremonies, and receive their diplomas that list both Berkeley and UCSF as the degree-granting institutions.

Graduating students have an additional option of being hooded individually at their exit seminar. If electing this option, a hood must be reserved three weeks in advance from the UCSF Program administrative office.

4.4 Optional Master of Science

Students in the Program may also complete the requirements for a Master's degree as part of their doctoral program. The acceptable plan to earn a masters is Plan I which requires a thesis and formal coursework as outlined below.

Plan I Requirements:

1. Completion of 20 semester units, eight of which are graded graduate level courses in the major field of study, not including seminars. Of the remaining 12 units, up to three may be individual research, while the remaining must be advanced undergraduate or graduate courses in the major or other fields of study.
2. Completion of a Master's Thesis. The Master's Thesis must be read and approved by at least three Program faculty members who must come from both campuses.

5. ADVISING OVERVIEW

The Chair of the Program, on behalf of the Executive Committee, nominates the Graduate Advisers. The Graduate Division Deans at both UCSF and Berkeley receive these nominations and make the formal appointments that legitimize the Graduate Advisers' signatures on either campus. The Head Graduate Advisers at UCSF and Berkeley oversee all advising activities.

Graduate Advisers

Graduate Advisers are matched to incoming students prior to registration, based on the students' stated areas of interest. Students may later request a different, potentially better-matched adviser by contacting a Head Graduate Adviser (see below).

The Graduate Adviser is the official deputy of the Dean of the Graduate Division in matters affecting graduate students in the Program. Thus, the relationship between the Graduate Division and the Graduate Adviser is a very close one, involving a high degree of cooperation. The objects of both are the same: to guide students in an orderly fashion through the various steps necessary for the attainment of their higher degrees.

The Graduate Adviser formally approves students' Programs of Study, recommends their advancement to candidacy, considers their petitions to add or change majors, to add or drop course, or to apply for withdrawal or readmission, and speaks for the Program on matters concerning the progress and standing of individual graduate students. In all these matters, the Graduate Adviser must judge whether or not a student's request or proposed action is in order, is in the best interests of the student and the program, and is feasible under existing regulations.

Head Graduate Adviser

The two Head Graduate Advisers (UCSF and Berkeley) are appointed based on their considerable experience as Graduate Advisers. They are responsible for overseeing and signing documents pertaining to graduate enrollment, degrees, financial aid, student progress and student standing. They are also available to all students for consultation on any matters relating to the program and serve as 'back-up' when the student's assigned Graduate Adviser is not available.

Area Adviser

The Area Advisers are Program faculty on each campus with expertise in a particular research area. Area Advisers provide any Program student with focused, in-depth, area-specific advising including selection of curriculum, program of study, faculty mentor, qualifying exam and dissertation committee membership. The list of area advisers is [available online](#).

Peer Adviser

Students have an active group of Peer Advisers that provide support to their colleagues. Every entering student is assigned at least one Peer Adviser and is encouraged to consult them on a broad variety of matters, including choice of courses and rotations. The Peer Advisers have prepared a summary of information for new students called: “Into the Belly of the BEAST”, available on the [BEAST wiki](#).

5.1 Research Mentor

As described in the section on selecting a Research Mentor, this key faculty member is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the student’s research training. The Research Mentor and student work closely together toward the first major milestone: completion of the qualifying examination. To assist students in being successful, mentors should participate with the student in choosing an appropriate topic, selecting the members of the committee, preparing and reviewing the proposal, and overseeing practice sessions for the examination.

Where necessary, mentors identify additional coursework that would help students to gain the background necessary for completing their research and encourage students to attend relevant workshops and research conferences.

It is critical for Research Mentors to continually monitor the progress students are making towards completing their dissertation. This should include helping students publish sections of their work in peer-reviewed journals and present material at national and international conferences. Other responsibilities are to chair annual meetings of dissertation committees that provide concrete feedback to students as to the progress towards their degree.

While some students hold extramural fellowships, the majority will require financial support from their Research Mentor. It is therefore critical that Research Mentors have resources that are sufficient to see dissertations through to completion.

Once a student has committed to pursue their dissertation research with a particular Research Mentor, that mentor is responsible for providing the following, for the length of the student’s dissertation project:

1. Stipend that meets the Program annual requirements as established by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the UCSF and Berkeley Graduate Divisions.
2. Registration fees and non-resident tuition (if applicable)* as established by each campus in conjunction with the Office of The President.
3. Conference registration fee for the annual Program Retreat
4. Travel to appropriate conferences and meetings
5. Expenses associated with research activities
6. Two weeks annual leave

*Usually only pertains to first year graduate students and continuing international students.

Progress Review

Students meet annually with their Graduate Adviser and, once applicable, their Research Mentor and Dissertation Committee. These meetings are to review their progress and outline remaining requirements. Students complete an annual Progress Report and other required forms with appropriate signatures and submit them to the Program office of their Home Campus each year. Program administrators communicate due dates each year via email. Required forms are listed below and are available in the Appendix.

5.2 Required Forms and Documentation

Please refer to the Appendix for Program forms. Forms that require additional reporting to the student's Home Campus Graduate Division are noted.

Students are required to annually update and submit these forms:

1. Program of Study
2. Area Requirements
3. Unofficial Transcript (found at UCSF student portal and/or UC Berkeley CalCentral)
4. Annual Progress Report (submit appropriate form for candidacy status; Pre-Candidacy or Advanced to Candidacy)
5. Dissertation Committee Update (**only** students advanced to candidacy)

First Year-Specific Forms:

1. Research Rotation Authorization (each rotation)
2. Research Rotation Evaluation (each rotation)

Students fill out the following forms typically only once:

1. Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair Commitment
2. Constitution of Qualifying Examination Committee**
3. Constitution of Dissertation Committee**

**Additional reporting to Home Campus Graduate Division required after Program form approval. E-form found on UCSF's Student Portal and Berkeley's CalCentral.

Every April, the Head Graduate Advisers chair a meeting of Graduate Advisers on their respective campuses to review material submitted by each student and report their progress to the executive committee.

Standards of Scholarship

The Graduate Divisions at UCSF and Berkeley have different policies on Academic Standing. It is strongly recommended that students review the most current versions of these policies on the respective Graduate Division web sites, because the program will hold you to these standards.

Berkeley Graduate Studies Handbook, Section E: Academic Standing

<http://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/#post-137>

UCSF Graduate Division Bulletin, Section General Regulations

<http://saa49.ucsf.edu/graduate/admin.htm#publications>

A note to all Students, regardless of Home Campus

Students should routinely review their transcripts to ensure that grades are properly posted and classes taken are accurately listed. In addition, because courses and grades from the other campus can sometimes take several months to be transferred to the home campus it is important to notify the Program office if the GPA on the Home Campus is below 3.0, but the combined GPA is 3.0 or better. Promptly alerting the Program office of GPA issues may prevent students from being placed on academic probation in error. Unofficial transcripts are available online on Berkeley's Cal central website, and through UCSF's Student Portal.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

Home Campus

Students are assigned in their first year to a Home Campus, Berkeley or UCSF, based on research interests and initial funding source. Upon the start of the second year, the Home Campus will be changed, when applicable, to the campus at which the student's selected Research Mentor holds their faculty appointment. The Home Campus is where fees are paid and health services are based (except for emergencies when students will be covered at any Emergency Room). Forms for qualifying exams, advancement to candidacy, and dissertation status are submitted to the Graduate Division of the Home Campus. The Home Campus will also be a factor in the composition of the qualifying and dissertation committees.

All students in the Graduate Program in Bioengineering have full access to courses, research opportunities, and facilities (including the libraries and student unions) on both campuses regardless of Home Campus assignment.

Home Campus change is possible prior to taking the qualifying examination and requires academic justification with the approval of the Head Graduate Advisers by petitioning both Berkeley and UCSF Graduate Divisions. Consult the program staff for details if considering a Home Campus change.

Student Health Coverage

Berkeley Student Health Services:

<http://uhs.berkeley.edu/students/insurance/>

UCSF Student Health Services:

<http://studenthealth.ucsf.edu/>

Communication

Most communication for the group is conducted through email. Students are issued a Berkeley email account when they make their statement of intent to register. The Program does not provide mailboxes.

All students plus the Program staff are included on a list serve entitled

beastmail@lists.berkeley.edu

All Program Faculty plus staff are included on private list serve.

Students are encouraged to keep the Program administrative staff and the Office of the Registrar on the Home Campus informed of current contact information, including address and phone numbers.

This information can be updated here:

UCB: <https://calcentral.berkeley.edu>

UCSF: <https://saa.ucsf.edu/studentportal/>

Registration

Students are required to register for school each quarter / semester during the academic year and maintain full-time student status (8 quarter units or 12 semester units). Students are required to register (and pay fees) for summer school only if their fellowship requires it. Students meet with their Graduate Advisers to review course enrollment plans each term.

Withdrawals

Students choosing to leave the program before completing a degree must officially withdraw from the university. If choosing to return at a later date, they must apply for readmission.

6.1 Registration Guidelines based on Home Campus

Enrollment requirements vary depending on the home campus status of a student. See below for specific requirements.

Enrollment Requirements for every Berkeley Semester

	Berkeley Home Campus Students	UCSF Home Campus Students
Taking classes at Berkeley	Register online at Berkeley using CalCentral (full-time enrollment is 12 or more units)	Register online at Berkeley CalCentral, Submit UCSF Study List Filing form
Not taking classes at Berkeley	Register at Berkeley using CalCentral, at least 12 research units (299) if applicable, and / or verify course enrollment at UCSF	Register for one-unit 299 course online at Berkeley CalCentral

Enrollment Requirement for every UCSF Quarter

	Berkeley Home Campus Students	UCSF Home Campus Students
Taking classes at UCSF	Submit Study List Filing online on UCSF Student Portal	Submit Study List Filing online on UCSF Student Portal (minimum 8 units, using research units if necessary).
Not taking classes at UCSF	No action is required	Submit Study List Filing online on UCSF Student Portal (minimum 8 units of research: Pre-candidacy Bio 250, Candidacy Bio 299)

Registration Resources Online

UCB CalCentral: Registration, Schedule of Classes, etc.

<http://calcentral.berkeley.edu>

UCSF Office of the Registrar online services

<http://registrar.ucsf.edu/registration/how-register>

UCSF Office of the Registrar web page for registration

<https://saa.ucsf.edu/studentportal/>

UCSF Course Catalog: <http://coursecatalog.ucsf.edu/>

Bioengineering Course Catalog: <http://guide.berkeley.edu/courses/>

6.2 Berkeley Registration

Registration means 1) enrolling in classes; 2) paying fees, and 3) having no blocks to registering.

The student is responsible for enrolling in classes, checking to make sure all fee payments have been made on their behalf and clearing registration blocks as soon as possible.

At Berkeley, students enroll in classes through CalCentral. UCSF Home Campus students also utilize this system when signing up for Berkeley courses. (Students cannot enroll in UCSF courses through CalCentral.)

Students use their CalNet ID and passphrase to access CalCentral. CalNet IDs are created when students join the Program.

CalCentral Registration Timeline:

Phase I begins in April and ends in July.

Phase II begins in July and ends in August.

Students are assigned an appointment date to use CalCentral for each phase. Once the appointment expires, students can access registration on CalCentral through the end of each phase during Open Hours (Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 8:00 am and 7:00 pm to Midnight). Registration through CalCentral is available through the end of the third week of classes.

To be registered at Berkeley, every Berkeley based student must enroll for a minimum of 12 Berkeley units each semester (note that full-time enrollment for graduate students is 12 units). If a student is not taking classes, or their classes do not add up to the required 12 units, the student must register for additional units of BIOE 299 (independent research) and / or 298 (group

research / journal club). Contact the Berkeley Program administrator for the correct Course Control Number to use for BIOE 299.

UCSF-based students are not required to carry a full course load at Berkeley. However, all students taking courses at Berkeley are to follow the procedures described here and observe the relevant deadlines. UCSF-based students not taking courses at Berkeley must enroll in a one-unit dummy course at Berkeley each semester.

Any schedule changes (whether the student is UCSF or Berkeley based) made after the third week of classes will require a "Petition to Change Class Schedule." The petition must be signed by the student and the professor of the class the student is adding, if applicable. The original signed petition must be submitted to the Berkeley program administrator by the last day of instruction.

Consequences of Late Registration

It is essential that all students be registered by the 15th day of classes. Certain penalties apply to students who do not register on time and there are significant budget consequences to the department when students fail to register by the census date. A "Petition for Late Enrollment / Registration" will need to be submitted and a Late Enrollment Fee of \$150 is charged to continuing students who fail to use CalCentral to enroll in at least one class by the end of Phase II. Students with eligible appointments (i.e., 25 percent time or greater per semester as a Graduate Student Instructor or Graduate Student Researcher) must be registered by the end of the third week of classes or they may lose their fee remissions.

Consequences of Not Registering

Students who are not registered have access only to those University facilities that are accorded to the general public, and they may not consult with faculty about matters pertaining to their programs. International students who choose not to register must continue to pay for health insurance, moreover are subject to policies set forth by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Such students will be "administratively cancelled" and will have to petition for re-entry and pay a fee if they want to register at Berkeley again.

6.3 UCSF Registration

Each quarter, all students should check the UCSF Student Portal summary tab for registration holds and update relevant information (e.g. address). The UCSF Office of the Registrar has strict due dates and will charge students a late fee for missed due dates.

Further requirements depend on a student's home campus:

UCSF Home Campus Students:

UCSF Home Campus students must register every quarter at UCSF by filling out their study list.

Review the UCSF registration procedures on the web (<http://registrar.ucsf.edu/registration/how-register>) and the UCSF Add/Drop due dates (<http://registrar.ucsf.edu/registration/study-list-filing>)

Every Quarter, UCSF Home Campus students must file a UCSF Study List online on the UCSF Student Portal with a minimum of 8 units. If necessary, students enroll in research credit to reach the minimum 8 units using the course BioE 250: Research. In a student's final quarter, students may instead use BioE 299: Dissertation if they do not hold a GSR appointment.

Note: UCSF's online system does not include Berkeley courses. Students that take Berkeley courses will see these added to their UCSF transcripts once grades are exchanged between each campus' Registrar's Office.

[UCSF Graduate Policies](#)

Berkeley Home Campus Students:

Berkeley Home Campus students that are not taking UCSF courses are not required to submit a study list filing, but they should review and update their contact information on the UCSF Student Portal. Students that are taking UCSF courses should complete the study list filing for that quarter.

6.4 Filing Fee Status

Students must be registered OR on filing fee status when they file their dissertation. Filing Fee Status is an alternate status used in lieu of registration, and is appropriate for students who have completed all course work and who have no occasion to use University facilities or to make use of faculty time other than for the final reading of their dissertation. *Filing Fee status is not equivalent to registration.* This status allows students to file their dissertation without having to pay registration fees.

Filing Fee Status may only be used once. If the student does not complete the final degree requirements during their eligibility period, the fee is forfeited and the student must pay regular registration fees during the semester in which they do complete those requirements.

Limitations of Filing Fee status

Students on Filing Fee status *may not take course work or use any University facilities not accorded the general public.* Services such as Financial Aid, Student Health and Student Union membership are not available, except by special arrangement. Nor may they hold graduate student appointments (GSR and GSI) at Berkeley.

Applications and campus specific Filing Fee policies are available from the Graduate Division offices on each campus. Students applying for the Filing Fee status submit a check or money order payable to the UC Regents for the fee with their application.

Berkeley Graduate Division
Degrees and Petitions: 510/642-7330

UCSF Graduate Division
415/476-2111
[UCSF Graduate Forms](#)
[UCSF Policy](#)

7. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Support

Full financial support is provided to all students for the duration of the doctoral program, and is contingent only on students maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Support includes stipend and fees (which includes comprehensive health and dental insurance). Non-resident tuition for out of state students will be covered for the first year; all eligible students must obtain California residency by their second year.

The Executive Committee sets the annual minimum level of stipend support within the parameters established by the Graduate Divisions. The current minimum annual stipend is \$37,000. During the first year, funding is typically provided by a combination of Federal, State, or fellowship sources. This includes extramural fellowships and research appointments with faculty during the summer. In the second year, students are partially supported by teaching appointments, by extramural fellowships that they have obtained and by appointments with the research mentors that they have selected.

One factor that allows the Program to maintain a large student body is the ability of some to secure extramural fellowships. Continuing students are responsible for applying for such financial assistance. The Program keeps students informed of available fellowship opportunities and provides necessary supporting documentation for applications.

The Financial Aid Office (UCSF) and the Graduate Fellowships office (Berkeley) are resources for information on many different kinds of specialized fellowships, scholarships, loans, and other opportunities. Students are urged to apply for any extramural pre-doctoral fellowships, and all students are required to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which can be found at:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Due to the restrictions of many funding agencies, opportunities for international students are limited. Applicants who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents do not qualify for California residency and are not eligible for certain types of support. Funding sources for international students do include fellowships, research assistantships and non-resident tuition (NRT) scholarships.

Once a student begins dissertation research under the guidance of their Research Mentor, that faculty member becomes responsible for the student's financial support. The arrangements of this support are specified in the Dissertation Lab / Mentor Commitment form. Students are responsible for discussing funding with their Research Mentor. This discussion should occur early in the relationship. In addition to stipend and fees, Mentors also provide support for registration fees for the annual Program Retreat and participation at national conferences.

7.1 Residency

California Residency and Nonresident Classification

California Residency is a classification for University tuition purposes. A California resident (defined by UC policy) is a financially independent adult who has lived in California for more than one year prior to the first day of instruction for the term during which they are claiming residency.

Students who do not meet these criteria or have not applied for Residency status are considered nonresidents and subject to nonresident tuition (NRT) as well as registration fees. The Program does not support NRT beyond eligible students' first year, on the assumption that all eligible students (e.g. not international students) will apply for reclassification as a California Resident.

Continuing students eligible for California residency are strongly encouraged to begin establishing residency upon arrival in California. To gain resident classification students must submit a petition to their Home Campus Registrar's office (at Berkeley online via CalCentral: <http://calcentral.Berkeley.edu/>) showing that they have lived in California for more than one year.

The deadline to file the petition is the last working day before the first day of instruction of the term for which they are seeking residency status (typically, Fall of the second year). Students may review the complete policy and procedures available from the Home Campus Registrar's Office and online:

UCB <http://registrar.Berkeley.edu/Residency/legalinfo.html>

UCSF <http://registrar.ucsf.edu/registration/residency>

Eligible students who do not petition for California residency will be responsible for paying their own NRT.

Common documents needed with the petition for change classification are:

- Documents confirming arrival in California prior to the start of fall semester of the previous year
- CA driver's license or state identification card (if non-driver)
- CA vehicle registration
- CA Voter registration card
- CA bank statements
- Documents confirming prior summer whereabouts (e.g., job offer letters, summer session, registration, etc.)
- Prior year's W-2 and State and Federal Income Tax Returns.
- Berkeley campus Personnel Action Notice confirming last Fall employment

For specific residency questions, contact the Berkeley Registrar's Office (510) 642-1614 or the UCSF Registrar's Office (415) 476-8280.

7.2 Stipend Guidelines

The Program's Executive Committee annually establishes a minimum stipend level. Committed to staying on par with comparable programs, the Committee regularly reviews the stipend amount.

Bioengineering Graduate Student minimum stipend level:

Annual (12 months): \$38,000.00 (2018-19)

This stipend level is a commitment made by the Program to the students of the incoming class. As most students advance, their funding will be provided through the mechanism of research rotations and their Research Mentor's resources. It is expected that future appointments for research rotations and dissertation research will adhere to these minimum stipend guidelines.

Appointment guidelines for Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) are sent out annually to the group. Appointments for bioengineering graduate students are initiated in the faculty mentor's department with their financial or human resources assistant. Rotation and Research Mentors should address questions to the [Program's administrators](#).

7.3 Fees

This section should be read in conjunction with the preceding **Section 7.1 Residency: California Residency and Nonresident Classification**.

UCSF Fees include the University Registration Fee, Educational Fee, Student Health Insurance premium, Student Union fee, Graduate Student Association fee (see [fee details at the UCSF Graduate Division](#)).

Berkeley Fees include the Student Services Fee, Tuition, Health Insurance fee, Class Pass fee (AC Transit), and Berkeley campus fee. See more details on [fees at the Registrar's Office](#).

The fees listed above are covered as part of each student's support package, in addition to the annual stipend, during the academic year. Fees are paid to the student's Home Campus each academic term except for the summer session fees, which are not included. Students are responsible for informing their Home Campus administrator in a timely manner of any fee issues, including holds and unpaid fee notices.

7.4 Online Resources

Berkeley Registrar's Office

<http://registrar.Berkeley.edu/Registration/feesched.html>

Berkeley Graduate Fee Remission Eligibility

<http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fee-remissions/>

Berkeley Graduate Studies Handbook

<http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/ggp/ggp.pdf>

UCSF Registrar's Office

<http://registrar.ucsf.edu/registration/fees>

UCSF Graduate Division Financial Support

<https://graduate.ucsf.edu/financial-support>

Defined Contribution Plan (DC Plan)

The University of California is required by law to make social security contributions or provide a safe harbor provision retirement plan for graduate students, the Defined Contribution Plan (DC Plan). UC-employed Graduate Students are required to contribute to the DC Plan Pretax Account through payroll withholding. These funds are available to the student when they leave the University, at which time the funds may be rolled into an IRA or employer-sponsored retirement plans.

For additional information regarding DC Plan and Medicare, contact:

- UC Benefits Customer Service at (800) 888-8267 x 70651
- UCSF Benefits Office at 476-1400
- HR Assistant processing your appointment.

Online DCP References:

UCSF Human Resources

<http://ucsfhr.ucsf.edu/benefits/residentsfellows/info.html?x=1254>

Berkeley U.C. Defined Contribution (DC) Plan

http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/forms_pubs/spd/dcpspd.pdf

Taxes

IMPORTANT NOTE: One complication with training grants (and most other nonwage awards, including the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship) is that there are laws that have made this income taxable, yet no taxes are withheld. Consequently, to avoid owing penalties for late taxes,

some students must either file quarterly estimated taxes or request that additional tax be withheld from any wage-type job (e.g. RA or GSI/TA) the student holds while on the training grant or fellowship. Most of the administrators on campus are forbidden by the school from giving tax advice, but copies of the tax forms can be found at the Berkeley Public Library in downtown Berkeley. The estimated tax forms and instructions are also available for download from the IRS website. Further details and resources for taxes are provided below.

Fellowship and Training Grant Income

The University does not issue a Form 1098 or W-2 for fellowships or training grants to degree candidates, and does not withhold taxes from the stipend portions of fellowships or training grants. Fellowship and grant funds used to pay tuition, fees, and course-related expenses are not subject to tax, but funds used for living expenses are taxable. Students should therefore report the portion of their awards used for living expenses as income and are responsible for the payment of estimated taxes. Students on a non-immigrant visa (F-1 and J-1) are in an exceptional category, and must consult with the HR representative in the Faculty Sponsor's department.

Payroll Appointments: GSR and GSI

Students who receive some or part of their funding through GSR and/or GSI appointments receive wages, (payments for services), which are subject to income tax withholding. The University will issue a W-2 to any student who held a payroll appointment at the end of each calendar year identifying total income received and taxes withheld. Tax withholding amounts may be adjusted by completing a W-9 form, which should be available in the office where the payroll appointment is set up.

International Students

The University reports awards made to international students to the IRS. A percentage of such fellowship stipends is withheld for federal tax, unless the student's home country has a tax treaty with the United States that exempts its citizens from withholding. State tax is withheld for international students and other nonresidents of California if they receive over \$1,000 per month or \$10,000 per calendar year. Students may call the Foreign Tax Unit of the disbursements Office (415/642-3002) to see if there are tax treaties between the United States and their country of residence.

Tax breaks for Graduate and Professional Students

The 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act includes substantial tax breaks for college students and their families. Graduate students who have children or other family members attending college may qualify for the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit for undergraduate study, and graduate students repaying student loans may qualify for the student loan interest deduction. For more information on the educational provisions of the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act, see the Loans and Receivables Office Web site:

<http://students.berkeley.edu/finaid/parents/tax.htm>

More information is available in the following IRS publications:

Educational Expenses	508
Highlights of the Tax Reform Act of 1986	1339
Scholarships and Fellowships	520
Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax	505
U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens	519
U.S. Tax Treaties	901
Your Federal Income Tax	17

8. BEAST and STUDENT AFFAIRS

Bioengineering Association of Students (BEAST)

BEAST (BioEngineering Association of Students) is the official organization for the Program's students. There are no dues associated with membership. Members participate in monthly meetings, academic discussions, weekly happy hours, and other fun activities, such as ski trips, movie night, pizza, and more. Officers are elected in the Fall semester. For more information see the Beast Wiki.

BEAST Wiki

URL: <http://ucbeast.berkeley.edu>

UCSF Graduate Student Room

Mission Bay Campus, Byers Hall
1700-4th ST
Room BH217
Access by UCSF photo ID card
Phone number: 415/476/2745

Graduate Student Resources

UCSF Student Academic Affairs (SAA) is a resource for student health services, international students and scholars, student relations, career center, financial services and more. Review their web pages: <http://saawww.ucsf.edu/>

UCSF Resources website offers more information on academics, administrative, campus and community resources and events: <http://www.ucsf.edu/education>

UCSF Graduate Student Association (GSA) is another resource for graduate students offering information on graduate student life, development, and enrichment and social events happening in the Bay Area: <http://student.ucsf.edu/gsa>

Berkeley Graduate Division is the resource for information on fellowships, teaching and research opportunities, student life, health, development, housing, and other campus services: <http://grad.berkeley.edu/>

Berkeley Graduate Assembly (GA) is the graduate student government. That provides resources, intellectual activities, a social network and advocates for graduate students: <http://ga.Berkeley.edu/>

Additional information on student organizations can be found on the web at:

UCB: <https://callink.berkeley.edu>

UCSF: <https://studentlife.ucsf.edu/involvement/registered-campus-orgs>

9. Appendix: Required Forms and Documentation

This appendix includes Program forms that students are required to complete as they make progress toward their degree. Please note, in some cases additional forms and/or online documentation must be submitted concurrently to the Graduate Division of a student's Home Campus (e.g. Constitution of a Qualifying Examination Committee).

- A. [Program of Study: Major and Minor](#)
- B. [Program of Study: Area Requirements](#)
- C. [Research Rotation Authorization](#)
- D. [Research Rotation Evaluation](#)
- E. [Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair Commitment](#)
- F. [Annual Progress Report: Pre-Candidacy Students](#)
- G. [Annual Progress Report: Students Advanced to Candidacy](#)
- H. [Constitution of Qualifying Examination Committee](#)
- I. [Constitution of Dissertation Committee](#)
- J. [Dissertation Committee Update](#)

See Section 5.2 Required Forms and Documentation for additional details. Requirements are as follows:

Students are required to annually update and submit these forms:

1. Program of Study
2. Area Requirements
3. Unofficial Transcript (found at UCSF student portal and/or UC Berkeley CalCentral)
4. Annual Progress Report (submit appropriate form for candidacy status; Pre-Candidacy or Advanced to Candidacy)
5. Dissertation Committee Update (**only** students advanced to candidacy)

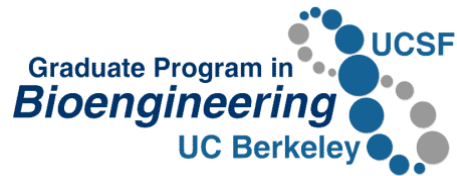
First Year-Specific Forms:

1. Research Rotation Authorization (each rotation)
2. Research Rotation Evaluation (each rotation)

Students fill out the following forms typically only once:

1. Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair Commitment
2. Constitution of Qualifying Examination Committee**
3. Constitution of Dissertation Committee**

**Additional reporting to Home Campus Graduate Division required after Program form approval. E-form found on UCSF's Student Portal and Berkeley's CalCentral.



**UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Program of Study: Major and Minor**

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Approval: _____ **Date:** _____
(Graduate Advisor's Signature)

Major _____

16 semester units required

(Quarter Units = 1.5 x semester units)

Classes	Course #	Campus	Sem Units	Term Taken	Grade	Area Req't.

Major Total Units _____

Minor _____

8 semester units required

(Quarter Units = 1.5 x semester units)

Classes	Course #	Campus	Sem Units	Term Taken	Grade	Area Req't.

Minor Total Units _____

Other Requirements

Requirement	Course #, Title and Faculty Instructor	Campus	Term Taken
Teaching Assistant (GSI)			

For Office Use Only:
Head Advisor's initials _____ Date entered in database _____

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Program of Study: Area Requirements



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Date: _____

Area Requirement	Required Sem/Qtr Units	Course Title(s)	Course #	Campus	Units	Term <i>(e.g. Fall 2016)</i>	Grade
Anatomy, Physiology, Biology	9/13.5						
Biochemistry & Chemistry beyond General Chemistry	3/4.5						
Engineering in a traditional discipline & Computer Science	7/10.5						
Mathematics & Statistics	2/3						
1 st Year Seminar UCB Bioengineering 200	na		200	B			
1 st Year Seminar UCSF Bioengineering 281	na		281	SF			
Ethics 1 st Year	na						
Ethics 4 th Year							

Approval: _____
Graduate Advisor Signature

Date

For Office Use Only:

Head Advisor's initials _____

Date entered in database _____



**UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Research Rotation Authorization**

Student Name: _____

Rotation Mentor: _____

**Please submit to your home campus administrator BEFORE the rotation begins:
(check one)**

_____ 1st rotation
(9/24-11/19)

_____ 2nd rotation
(1/3-2/28)

_____ 3rd rotation
(3/8-4/26)

Research Project Title:
Describe the research topic and overall objective. Be as specific as possible.

Approval Signatures:

Rotation Mentor _____ Date: _____

Student _____ Date: _____

Graduate Advisor _____ Date: _____
(required for exceptional authorizations only)

Return to Bioengineering Administration UCSF Byers Hall BH 216 or Berkeley 306D Stanley Hall

For Office Use Only:

Head Advisor's initials _____

Date entered in database _____



UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Research Rotation Evaluation

Student Name: _____

Rotation Mentor: _____

Rotation:
(check one)

_____ 1st rotation
(9/24-11/19)

_____ 2nd rotation
(1/3-2/28)

_____ 3rd rotation
(3/8-4/26)

Describe the student's performance during this research rotation.

Faculty Signature: _____ Date _____

Student to complete:

Provide an assessment of the experience gained during this rotation.

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Return to Bioengineering Administration UCSF Byers Hall BH 216 or Berkeley 306D Stanley Hall

For Office Use Only:

Head Advisor's initials _____

Date entered in database _____

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair Commitment

Student Name: _____

Research Mentor/Dissertation Chair: _____

Research Mentor Department: _____

Start Date: _____

The student's research mentor is responsible for providing the following support for the length of a student's dissertation project:

- **Stipend** that meets the Program's annual requirements established by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the UCSF and UCB Graduate Division requirements.
- **Registration Fees and Non-Resident Tuition** (if applicable*) as established by each campus in conjunction with the Office of The President.
- **Bioengineering Annual Retreat Registration Fee** to attend the Program's Annual Conference & Retreat.
- **Travel** to appropriate conferences and meetings.
- **Expenses** associated with research activities.
- **Leave** two weeks annually.

*Non-Resident Tuition (NRT) applies to international students and out-of-state first year students only. Eligible students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) are required to obtain California residency by their second year. *NRT is reduced substantially upon advancement to candidacy.*

I accept this student into my lab for their dissertation research project and agree to the funding and mentoring requirements of the Bioengineering Program.

Research Mentor Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Graduate Advisor Signature

Date

Research Mentor's Finance Assistant, C&G, or HR/Payroll Contact

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

For Office Use Only:

Department Chair Signature (UCSF Required)

Date

BioE Head Advisor Signature

Date

Date entered in database

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Annual Progress Report: Pre-Candidacy Students

To satisfy Program and Graduate Division reporting requirements, this form should be completed, signed, and returned to your home campus administrator in the Spring, on a date specified via email.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Year Entered Program: _____ **Student ID #:** _____

Student Comments: Describe annual progress (e.g. rotations, coursework, identified Research Mentor or QE committee, etc.). Use reverse side or additional page if needed.

What is your source of support next year? (Lab funds, fellowship, etc.) _____

Support Details (list fellowship or lab name): _____

Anticipated Date/Term of Qualifying Exam: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Graduate Advisor (1st years) or Research Mentor Section:

Student's Progress is: (Select one.)

More than satisfactory Satisfactory Improvement Needed

Describe the student's research and/or Program of Study progress. If Improvement Needed, recommend specific areas and methods for improvement:

I have met with and reviewed this student's progress on (date): _____

Faculty signature: _____

Signature

Print name

Research Mentor Commitment of Support: I commit to financially support and academically mentor the above listed student according to the by-laws of the Bioengineering PhD Program.

\$ _____ Support DPA/Fund Chart String: _____
(Annual stipend level)

Account manager name and contact information:

Name

email

Signature: Research Mentor

Print Name

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Annual Progress Report: Students Advanced to Candidacy

To satisfy Program and Graduate Division reporting requirements, this form should be completed, signed, and returned to your home campus administrator in the Spring, on a date specified via email. Students advanced to candidacy should also meet with their Dissertation Committee and complete a Dissertation Committee Meeting Update form on an annual basis, at minimum.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Year Entered Program: _____ **Student ID #:** _____

Date Qualifying Exam Passed: _____ **Date Advanced to Candidacy:** _____

Program Requirements (check if completed):

- Program of Study (Courses) Minimum 3.0 GPA
 Research Presentation Teaching Requirement (GSI/TA)

Student Comments: Describe annual progress (e.g. publications, coursework, research presentation date/location/title, etc.). Use reverse side or additional page if needed.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Research Mentor Section:

Student's Progress is: (Select one.)

- More than satisfactory Satisfactory Improvement Needed

(If Improvement Needed, recommend areas on students' Dissertation Committee Update form).

Mentor's Commitment of Support: I commit to financially support and academically mentor this student according to the by-laws of the Bioengineering PhD program.

\$ _____ Support DPA/Fund or Chart String: _____
(Annual stipend level)

Account manager name and contact information: _____

Mentor Signature *Print Name* *Date*

Graduate Advisor Section (UCSF Required):

I have met with and reviewed this student's progress on (date): _____

Graduate Advisor's Signature Print Name Date

For Office Use Only
Head Advisor's initials _____ *Date entered in database* _____

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Constitution of Qualifying Examination Committee

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Research Mentor: _____ Home Campus: _____

Note: This Program form should be approved and submitted to a student's Home Campus administrator. Students must then file the appropriate online form with their Home Campus Graduate Division to formally constitute their Qualifying Exam Committee. This must be done at least three weeks prior to the exam date.

The Qualifying Exam is administered by a committee of four academic senate faculty members. Composition of this Committee is governed by Graduate Division policy and Program guidelines; see Section 3.5 for details. A student's Research Mentor **cannot** serve on this Committee. A standard Bioengineering Qualifying Exam Committee includes the following:

- Member 1 (Committee Chair): Core faculty member from student's home campus
- Member 2: Core faculty member from opposite campus
- Member 3: Core faculty member from student's home campus
- Member 4: Non-core (outside or affiliate) member from student's home campus

Name	Campus (UCB/UCSF)	Core Faculty?	Academic Title and Department	Email
Member 1 (Chair):		Yes		
Member 2:		Yes		
Member 3:		Yes		
Member 4 (Outside member):		No		

Students in rare circumstances seeking a qualifying exam committee outside of these requirements should consult with their Head Graduate Advisor to put forth a petition to the Program's Executive Committee, and in some situations, the student's home campus Graduate Division. See Section 3.5 for more details.

Approved: _____
Head Graduate Advisor Signature _____ Date _____

Exam Date: _____ Location: _____ Time: _____

For Office Use Only: _____
Date entered in database _____

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Constitution of Dissertation Committee

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Research Mentor: _____ Home Campus: _____

Note: This Program form should be approved and submitted to a student’s Home Campus administrator. Students must then complete and file the appropriate forms with their Home Campus Graduate Division to formally constitute their Dissertation Committee and Advance to Candidacy. Failure to do so in a timely manner after the Qualifying Exam may jeopardize exam results. See Section 3.6 Advancement to Candidacy, and 3.9 Dissertation.

The Dissertation Committee consists of the Dissertation Chair (Research Mentor) and at least two additional Academic Senate faculty: one non-core faculty member from the student’s Home Campus (“Outside Member”), and one core member from the opposite campus. Fourth and fifth members of the Dissertation Committee, while optional, can add breadth of input to the student’s Dissertation and ultimately serve a beneficial role in the student’s academic and professional development.

Name	Campus	Full Academic Title	Email
Dissertation Chair (Research Mentor)			
Second Reader			
Third Reader (Outside Member)			
Fourth Member (optional)			
Fifth Member (optional)			

**The two optional committee members are listed on this form, but not required on the Graduate Division form.*

Approved: _____
 Graduate Advisor _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only:
 Head Advisor’s initials _____ Date entered in database _____

UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering
Dissertation Committee Update



After advancing to candidacy, students are required to meet with their dissertation committee on an annual basis, either as a group or individually. The purpose of this meeting is to provide research updates and discuss the student's progress toward completing the dissertation. After each meeting, this form should be signed and submitted to the student's Home Campus administrator.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Year Entered Program: _____ **Student ID #:** _____

Date Qualifying Exam Passed: _____ **Date Advanced to Candidacy:** _____

Student comments: Describe progress toward attaining your degree during the past year (e.g. publications, abstracts, presentations, etc.). Use an additional page or back side as needed.

Describe remaining requirements and progress necessary to complete the dissertation:

Research Mentor and Dissertation Committee Section:

Student's Progress is: (Select one.)

More than satisfactory Satisfactory Improvement Needed

Describe the student's progress on their dissertation this year. If Improvement Needed, recommend specific areas and methods for improvement. Use an additional page or back side as needed.

Expected Graduation Term: _____

Student Signature	Print	Date
--------------------------	--------------	-------------

Research Mentor / Dissertation Chair	Print	Date
---	--------------	-------------

Second Dissertation Reader	Print	Date
-----------------------------------	--------------	-------------

Third Dissertation Reader	Print	Date
----------------------------------	--------------	-------------

Fourth Dissertation Reader (optional)	Print	Date
--	--------------	-------------

Fifth Dissertation Reader (optional)	Print	Date
---	--------------	-------------