

Genetics Graduate Program

Milestones and Deadlines at-a-glance

Updated 2025

The Ph.D. Program

Year 1

- Course work: five graduate level courses for a grade, two honors grades
- Complete at least 3 rotations
- Select a thesis advisor by the end of rotations
- Begin discussion with advisor and DGS about qualifying exam in June/July
- Assemble a qualifying exam committee in July to September

Year 2

- Graduate Student Seminar in the Fall and Spring (GENE 6750/6760)
- Participate in Teaching at Yale Day before teaching for the first time
- Complete 2 semesters of teaching as soon as you can (by 4th year is strongly recommended)
- Take the qualifying exam by December 15th
- Assemble thesis committee within the first month of the spring semester

Year 3

- Convene first thesis committee meeting no later than October 15th. Provide thesis research plan and the individual career development plan to the committee a week ahead of the first meeting
- Submit Dissertation Prospectus by January 15th
- Admission to candidacy takes place after faculty meeting/review of candidates, which usually takes place at the end of May
- RIP – All Genetic students are strongly encouraged to attend RIP throughout their PhD. Student years who are asked to present vary, but typically 3rd – 5th year. Students with permission to write are exempt.

Year 4

- Take the RCR refresher course MCDB 5040
- At least 2 thesis committee meetings
- Dissertation progress report by May 15th

Year 5

- At least 2 thesis committee meetings
- Dissertation progress report by May 15th
- When ready (see handbook for graduation requirements) either in year 5 or beyond, convene the last committee meeting, and ask for permission to write thesis
- Write and submit thesis
- Convene thesis seminar – this must take place no later than 4/15 for Spring, and 11/15 for fall

Year 6 and beyond

- At least 2 thesis committee meetings
- Dissertation progress report by May 15th
- convene the last committee meeting, ask for permission to write thesis
- Write and submit thesis
- Convene thesis seminar – this must take place no later than 4/15 for Spring, and 11/15 for fall
- Petition for continuing registration each **semester** if entering year 7

The Ph.D. portion of the M.D. Ph.D. Program

Applies to students who started in Genetics in 2023

Year 1 (in Genetics)

- Course work: four graduate level courses for a grade (if not already completed); Genetics Graduate Student Seminar (GENE 6750/6760), two honors grades
- Complete 1 semesters of teaching as soon as you can (by 4th year is strongly recommended)
- Qualifying exam by May 31st

Year 2

- Assemble thesis committee within the first month of the fall semester
- Convene the first thesis committee meeting by January 15th. Provide thesis research plan and the individual career development plan to the committee a week ahead of the first meeting
- Submit Dissertation Prospectus by April 30th.

Year 3

- Take the RCR refresher course MCDB 5040
- Present in RIP
- Thesis committee meeting at least once a year
- Dissertation progress report by May 15th

Beyond year 3:

- Thesis committee meeting at least twice a year
- Dissertation progress report by May 15th
- Present in RIP annually until writing permission is received
- When ready, convene the last committee meeting, ask for permission to write thesis
- Submit thesis
- Thesis seminar, can occur before or after thesis submission