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University of Notre Dame  
Bioengineering Ph.D. Program

Graduate Studies Handbook

2015 – 2016 Academic Year



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## I. INTRODUCTION

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This handbook describes the policies and procedures for the Bioengineering Ph.D. program at the University of Notre Dame. Its focus is on the unique degree requirements of this interdisciplinary program. In addition to the requirements in this handbook, students should be familiar with graduate school policies regarding their degree progress, and requirements to maintain eligibility for financial support and health care subsidies. Additional sources of student guideline and policies are Du Lac, the University's student policy and procedure manual, and the Graduate and Professional Student Handbook. All students were provided a copy of this Handbook upon admission.

These policies apply to all students enrolled during the 2015-2016 academic year. They are subject to change and may be different from policies published in previous years. More general information on the program can also be found at

<http://bme.nd.edu>. Nothing herein, in previous handbooks or on-line is to be interpreted as contrary to the regulations of the Graduate School.

Topics covered in this handbook include the basic responsibilities of graduate students, requirements for the Ph.D. program, and items related to selected facilities and services available. A number of other important documents and directives are listed in the Table of Contents in the form of URL's and each student is encouraged to review these documents. Often answers to questions regarding the graduate program can be found by contacting Ms. Nancy Davis. Her office is Rm. 153 Multidisciplinary Research Building.

This handbook provides the official policies of the degree program. If under any circumstances a student wishes to deviate from these policies, they should secure prior written approval from the program director and make sure that this approval is recorded in their permanent file. Do not assume that approval will be granted for any deviations from the policies based on previous precedents.

## **II. BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS**

### **A. Registration**

A full-time graduate student is required to take nine credit hours during the fall and spring semesters during each semester in residence. These credits will be a mix of course work and research credits. The Graduate School allows a maximum of nine hours of course work per semester for students who are receiving stipend support.

### **B. Enrollment**

All graduate students must both register and enroll before each spring and fall semester to maintain student status. Enrollment is different from registration, and you must do both. If you fail to enroll during the semester, you may have to apply for re-admission. The only exception is for officially approved leaves of absence. Students are required to register and enroll for the summer session *only* if they intend to graduate during that session, or if they wish to take a course offered in the summer session.

### **C. Satisfactory Degree Progress**

Each year your degree progress will be reviewed by your advisor, the Program Committee, and the Graduate School. Each of these levels may have differing standards and criteria for evaluation. Continued financial support, both stipend and tuition, are dependent upon successful performance in research, course work, assistance in teaching as well as the availability of funds.

### **Grades**

The most readily used means for assessment of the student's academic progress is through grades assigned in course work. The Graduate School grading system is on a four-point basis. Grades recorded for graduate courses are: A (4.0), A- (3.667), B+ (3.333), B (3.0), B- (2.667), C+ (2.333) and C (2.0). In the bioengineering program, the grade of B- is considered the lowest acceptable grade in any graduate course. A student whose cumulative GPA is below 3.0 or whose GPA in any given semester is below 2.5 may be subject to loss of financial support and/or dismissal.

### **Milestones**

You must meet certain milestones in order to remain in good standing with the program and the Graduate School. You must:

1. Complete your qualifying examination before starting your third semester.
2. Pass your candidacy examination before beginning your ninth semester
3. Complete your dissertation defense within seven years

Failure to achieve these milestones will result in your ineligibility for further financial aid, including tuition and fees.

### **D. Teaching and research responsibilities**

Most graduate students are supported by research grants and contracts. You are responsible for meeting the requirements of your research position, which should be considered a full-time position. Students should be on campus and meet with their research supervisor regularly.

Most departments in the College of Engineering require affiliated graduate students to assist with teaching. The director of graduate studies in your home department may assign you teaching assistant duties according to the policies of the department.

### **E. Breaks and Holidays**

It is expected that full-time students receiving financial support from the University devote their entire professional efforts to research, teaching, and course work within the University. Students may not engage in outside employment of any kind without permission of the program director.

Students receiving stipends should note that normal academic breaks do not apply to graduate students. In particular, you are expected to be present during spring and fall break, and in the interterm periods following finals.

Graduate students on stipend should observe the following holidays: Thanksgiving and the following Friday, Christmas Eve through New Year's Day, Good Friday and Easter Monday, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Vacation time during periods that you are receiving financial support must be approved by your advisor. There is no official University policy on vacation time for graduate students, and the amount of time you receive is solely at the discretion of your advisor. Note that spring break and fall break are not vacation periods for graduate students.

Students who are paid as Teaching Assistants (TA) must be available throughout the semester, through the end of final exams, to support the courses for which they have responsibility. This includes fall and spring breaks, when you may need to assist with grading or course preparation. Any absence from campus by a TA during the semester must be approved in writing by the student's research advisor, the instructor in the course for which the student is serving as a TA and the program director.

#### **F. Office and Laboratory Facilities**

Your home department supports office space and individual research laboratories. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and following the proper safety procedures for the laboratories they use. Because the offices and laboratories are diverse in their purposes, procedures, and equipment, specific safety procedures are not listed here. However, all users of these offices and laboratories are to observe the following general safety and security procedures:

1. You may be issued keys or electronic access to university building. Keys may not be traded among, loaned to, or passed on to other students and must be returned as soon as the need for regular access has passed.
2. Laboratory users share in maintaining its security and cleanliness. Laboratory doors are not to be propped open or left unlocked when the laboratory is unattended, and must be locked at the end of the working day.
3. Unauthorized users are not allowed into a laboratory.
4. Guests may be invited into a laboratory, but may not be left unsupervised. The host is responsible for the guests' safety.

#### **G. Safety**

Your office facilities and laboratory spaces have an integrated safety plan. You should be familiar with it, and your advisor or their designee should instruct you in laboratory safety. You should bring to the attention of your laboratory supervisor or advisor any unsafe laboratory situations they encounter. If you do not feel that your concern has been adequately addressed, you should contact the program director. The following general rules apply to all laboratories:

1. Each student using a laboratory must be acquainted with all the particular safety procedures and safety equipment in the laboratory. These include the locations of emergency controls and the locations and use of all safety equipment and first aid supplies.
2. Students should contact their advisor or other laboratory management if they see an unsafe situation, or feel the need for additional or different personal protective equipment.
3. Graduate students who supervise undergraduate laboratories assume primary responsibility for safety procedures. If additional safety supplies (such as hard hats or safety glasses) are required, the course instructor should be notified.
4. Any graduate student developing a new experiment or acquiring new equipment will also be responsible for developing and recording the proper safety procedures associated with the new equipment.
5. Observed inadequacy of laboratory safety procedures or equipment must be reported immediately to a faculty member so that the situation may be corrected.
6. Violations of safety procedures or the creation of unsafe or unhealthy conditions must be reported to the responsible faculty. Failure to work safely or to maintain orderly, professional working environments will result in the forfeiture of all office or laboratory privileges.

#### **H. Leaves or Study at Other Sites**

On occasion students spend part of their graduate program in a non-resident status. A

student should carefully discuss all aspects of such an arrangement with their research advisor prior to departure. Students who leave prior to completing their degree program and graduating must realize that in order to eventually receive their degree they

must be registered as a student in the semester prior to the graduation. If they are in a non-resident status and wish to complete their program and graduate, they will be responsible for the tuition costs associated with that registration.



### III. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

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The Bioengineering program is administered by the college of engineering and is housed across the various departments. The program is strictly a Ph.D program, and the Graduate School does not grant an M.S. degree in Bioengineering.

#### A. Administration

All policy-making and administrative authority in the Bioengineering degree program resides with the Faculty program committee and the program director. Any policy question or administrative matter should be referred in writing to the program committee via Ms. Nancy Davis, 153 Multidisciplinary Engineering. Matters that cannot be resolved satisfactorily can be appealed to the Graduate School, via the Dean of the Graduate School. The program director is Professor Glen L. Niebur, 147 Multidisciplinary Engineering (gniebur@nd.edu).

#### B. Home Department

Each student in the program is assigned to a home department. The home department is the department where the student's faculty advisor has their primary appointment. The home department in conjunction with the advisor will provide office and laboratory facilities for the student. The student is required to fulfill any teaching assistant, service, and professional development requirements as other Ph.D. students in the home department.

While the home department administrative personnel may provide certain support for students, such as ordering supplies or arranging office space, all academic records are maintained in the Bioengineering Program office (153 Multidisciplinary Engineering), and the student should ensure that all examination records and scheduling are reported to the program rather than your home department.

#### C. Financial Support

Most full-time students receive a stipend. Funds for these stipends typically come from the externally funded grants and contracts of the student's advisor. The bioengineering program has minimal resources to provide stipend or benefit

support to students. Such resources will be allocated at the discretion of the program committee. Students should communicate with their advisors to determine their status for ongoing financial support.

### IV. ADVISING

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One of the most important matters for graduate students is the choice of a faculty advisor. This choice can have a great effect on your time in graduate school and long-term career path. Upon entry, you will be temporarily advised by a faculty member assigned by your home department. Your permanent research advisor will be a faculty member in your home department.

Your advisor will be assigned to you based on your input, the current faculty needs, and available resources. In most cases individual students and faculty members make this arrangement without external intervention.

You should immediately begin speaking with faculty members in your area of interest upon arrival at Notre Dame. After your first semester you, will be asked to submit a ranked list of preferences for potential advisors to the program director. Some home departments may ask that you make this declaration earlier in your program.

If you do not have a research advisor by the end of the second semester in the program, you may be subject to dismissal from the program. If a student is dismissed by an advisor at any time during their studies and cannot secure the support of a new advisor within 6 weeks, they may be dismissed from the program at the end of the current semester.

#### A. Examination Committee

Within your first year of residence, you will establish your Examination Committee. This committee should be chosen carefully in consultation with your advisor, as they will also be involved in specifying the required coursework for your degree program. The committee must consist of:

1. Your research advisor
2. A faculty member of your home department

3. A faculty member from outside your home department

All students must have an advisor from their home department who is an active member of the Bioengineering program. Any faculty member in the College of Engineering or the College of Science may be part of your examination committee.

You may have one member who is not on the Notre Dame faculty. In general, individuals from

outside the University should be tenured faculty at another university, or otherwise have a record of scholarly activity. An outside member must be formally requested to and approved by the Program Committee.

Note that all three members of the committee are voting members on your examination and dissertation, and should be able to understand and judge the suitability of your coursework and research for your degree.

## V. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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### A. Course Requirements

The Ph.D. degree requires a *minimum* of 27 credits (usually nine courses) of coursework credit. Your advisor or your examination committee(s) may specifically require you to take additional courses based on their judgment of your preparation for research and scholarship. You may take courses beyond the minimum, with the approval of your research advisor, and to the extent that they do not interfere with your teaching and research responsibilities.

It is the policy of the University that students receiving stipends take no more than three courses per semester, so as not to interfere with your research and teaching responsibilities associated with the stipend.

#### *Degree Program*

At the end of the first year, you should complete the degree plan form (Appendix D) to indicate the courses you have taken and plan to take to meet the degree requirements.

Your signed degree program will be sent to the Graduate School, and represents the expected course sequence that you will complete for your degree. Changes to your degree plan may be necessary due to changes in course availability or your research program. Changes to your degree program will normally be approved by your committee and the program director at the time of your qualifying examination. You should discuss potential changes with your advisor and your committee to ensure that they are acceptable. If any courses listed on your signed degree program form are not completed, your degree will not be awarded.

The following minimum requirements must be satisfied by each student's degree program:

1. ENGINEERING SCIENCE: Nine credits (three courses) of traditional engineering courses at the graduate level (6XXXX and above). These courses must incorporate significant applications of engineering mathematics, and should generally be from the

student's home department. The final determination of whether a course is appropriate to fulfill the engineering science requirement will be made by the Faculty Program Committee.

2. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE: Nine credits (three courses) of biosciences courses such as biology, physiology, anatomy, or biochemistry. You must have biological sciences courses beyond basic cell biology (BIOS 30341), which you can demonstrate by taking BIOS 30341, or any undergraduate course for which it is a prerequisite, or a graduate cell biology course. Other courses at the 3XXXX-level may be taken as remedial courses, but cannot be used to fulfill the bioscience requirements. The biosciences coursework is intended to provide the student with depth of knowledge in the biological sciences, and should include at least one course at the graduate (6XXXX or greater) level.
3. BIOENGINEERING: A minimum of nine credits (three courses) of engineering, bioengineering, and biology electives at the graduate level (6XXXX and above). These courses are intended to develop the student's ability to synthesize knowledge in engineering and biology, and to develop the necessary background to complete their dissertation research.

The courses that fit in each category is not fixed. The final determination of the appropriateness of any course to fulfill the requirements is determined by your advisor and examination committee, and approved by the Program Committee.

A minimum of 72 semester credit hours (including both course credits and research credits) are required for the Ph.D. degree based on the requirements **to register for nine credit hours each semester**, you should complete this within six semesters.

#### *First year courses*

Eighteen credit hours of course work (6 courses), excluding research credits, are typically

taken in the first year. A minimum of four courses must be taken to prepare for the qualifying examination.

Students should meet with their admission advisor at the beginning of their first semester to prepare an individual course of study for the first semester. A permanent research advisor is normally assigned during the first semester. The research advisor will then work with the student to plan the remainder of their program.

### ***General Course Guidelines***

Only courses offered by departments in the Colleges of Engineering or Science can be applied to degree requirements. Introductory graduate-level courses are numbered 6XXXX, special graduate courses are numbered 7XXXX, and advanced graduate courses are 9XXXX.

Credit can be received for up to six credits of undergraduate courses offered in the Colleges of Engineering and Science. Credit will not be given for work that is considered remedial.

If you completed your undergraduate degrees at Notre Dame, and took graduate level (60000 level or higher) courses that were not used to satisfy undergraduate degree requirements, you can request to use up to 6 credit hours of qualified courses to satisfy graduate degree requirements.

### **B. The Qualifying Examination**

Passing the qualifying examination is your official acceptance into the Ph.D. program, and advances you to the level of doctoral student.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Evaluation is to determine whether a student is prepared to perform research at a level consistent with his or her degree objective. The evaluation is normally after the first academic year, typically at the start of the third semester in residence. The evaluation includes a review, based on the student's course work, of his or her knowledge of bioengineering fundamentals, results of the written and oral components of a research examination and an evaluation by the research advisor of the student's performance in research.

### ***Coursework***

To pass the coursework portion of the exam, students must have completed at least three engineering courses and at least four courses total while maintaining a grade point average of 3.3 or higher in their first year. Any courses in which the student earned a grade of B- or lower cannot be counted towards satisfying degree requirements, regardless of overall GPA.

If deficiencies should appear in the course work evaluation while the other evaluation components appear satisfactory, specific remedies may be identified on an individual basis at the discretion of the faculty.

### ***Written component***

By the end of the summer session following your first year in residence, you must complete a research paper (5-7 pages) describing and analyzing a problem that includes both engineering and biological components. It should formulate a unique problem, explain the motivation for the problem, and provide a description of the topic based on principles of engineering analysis. Ordinarily these papers will be based on your research so that a description of the relevant experimental, theoretical, and computational techniques should be included along with preliminary results and a description of the next steps in the work.

Your examination committee, approved by the Program Director, will evaluate the written component and hold an oral examination session to further evaluate your ability to continue for a PhD. You must distribute copies of your paper to the examination committee at least one week prior to scheduling your oral examination.

### ***Oral Component***

You are responsible for scheduling the oral component of the examination. Nancy Davis (153 Multidisciplinary Engineering) or your home department administrative assistant can help you to locate and schedule an appropriate room.

You will make an oral presentation, no more than 20 minutes in length, describing the key content of your written examination. Of particular interest are research objectives, plans, and

preliminary results. This is followed by a period of questions from the faculty, which will focus on your ability to interpret and explain the presented research. Questioning is not confined to topics within the scope of the research, but this should be the majority of interrogation as the coursework component is intended to address fundamentals. The oral examination is typically 45 minutes in length.

The oral qualifying examination is not public. However you are encouraged to present the examination material in alternate public settings such as a laboratory or group seminar.

### ***Admission to the Doctoral Program***

The Program Committee will make the decision to accept the student into the doctoral program after reviewing the student's academic record and the Qualifying examination results. Admission to the degree program does not constitute admission to degree candidacy, for which additional requirements are described below.

### **C. Candidacy Examination**

All Ph.D. students at Notre Dame must take and pass a candidacy examination. Passing the candidacy examination will advance you to the level of Ph.D. candidate.

You generally take and pass your candidacy examination by the end of your third year in the program. The examination consists of both written and oral components, and will be administered by the appointed Examination Committee. The written and oral parts are considered separately and you must pass both.

It is normally expected that you will have submitted at least one paper to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal in your field prior to your oral candidacy examination. Your committee may accept a conference paper, or a paper that is nearly ready for submission.

### ***Written Candidacy Examination***

The written candidacy examination is a research proposal. The formatting should follow guidelines for an NSF research proposal (see <http://nsf.gov>) including page limitations. You should not include personnel, facilities, and budget

justification sections. Your proposal should include a CV that includes your relevant publications and presentations. Your CV need not follow NSF guidelines. It should include all publications, including conference presentations, and any other relevant research accomplishments or awards. Your advisor can provide you with examples of typical research proposals, which may vary between subdisciplines.

The proposal should introduce the theme of your research project and develop two to four specific aims within the first one to two pages of the proposal. Following the aims, the background and significance, including relevant literature and any preliminary results should be presented. Your specific research plan to address the aims, objective or hypotheses of your work should be presented. Specific methods should be provided as necessary to demonstrate your knowledge of how the research can be carried out.

You must distribute the written component of your examination to the committee at least one week prior to scheduling the oral examination. Each committee member must sign the examination report (Appendix E) and return it to Nancy Davis in 153 Multidisciplinary Engineering Research. You may not schedule the oral examination until the signed report is completed.

The written component of the examination requires *unanimous committee approval*.

### ***Oral Candidacy Examination***

The oral candidacy examination will conform to Graduate School guidelines.

The examination will include a presentation of completed research, and proposed research to complete your dissertation. It should specifically address how your research applies to the field of bioengineering, how it integrates knowledge of both biology and engineering, and how it will advance the state of knowledge in the field. The initial presentation is open to the public. You must accept and answer questions from the public audience at the completion of the presentation.

Following the public presentation, the examination committee will question you in depth on your completed research and your research plans.

The committee may also ask fundamental questions about your field(s) of research and study. You may wish to confer with your examination committee members prior to the examination to determine the expected scope of their questions.

Following questioning, your Examination Committee will deliberate in private.

Passing the oral candidacy examination requires a *majority vote* of the committee.

### ***Advancement to Candidacy***

Upon passing both the written and oral candidacy examinations, you will be advanced to candidacy, which signifies your ability and responsibility to conduct independent research.

### ***Students entering with an M.S. Degree***

There are some modifications to the program if you had an M.S. degree upon entering the Bioengineering Ph.D. program. A request to the program committee for transfer of up to nine credits from a master's degree obtained within the previous five years may be made. To receive credit for a graduate course taken elsewhere, the course will need to be a graded, graduate-level, academic course, of the type that would normally be considered as part of our graduate academic course requirements and the student achieved a grade of a B+ or better. You cannot transfer pass/fail courses, research credits, thesis credits or other non-classroom credits. Your examination committee, advisor, and the program committee will assess whether these courses fulfill the category requirements of your degree plan. In any case, you will still need to complete at least 72 total credits, including research credits, *at Notre Dame*.

## **D. The Dissertation and Defense**

After the completion of research, you will prepare and defend a written dissertation. The dissertation is the traditional form of documenting your ability to perform, write, and present scholarly research. The contents of the dissertation should be deemed suitable for publication in the peer-reviewed literature.

### ***Written dissertation***

This is a thorough compendium of your research and scholarship at Notre Dame. The contents of the dissertation vary between subfields, and you should consult with your advisor regarding the overall format and style. In addition, the graduate school has specific formatting and style requirements that you must meet.

When your dissertation advisor(s) is/are satisfied that the dissertation is in suitable form, and has the appropriate content, they will sign a distribution form, releasing it for distribution to the examination committee. You must deliver the signed form to the programs' graduate administrative assistant, who will then issue the Ph.D. reader's card. It is your responsibility to deliver the required copies of the dissertation along with the appropriate reader's card to their readers, and to collect and return the signed readers cards to the administrative assistant.

The dissertation defense may not be scheduled sooner than six weeks from the date the graduate studies administrative assistant receives the dissertation distribution form. It is expected that during this time each reader will carefully read the dissertation and meet with the candidate to discuss suggested or necessary changes to be made before the oral defense. The oral examination will not be scheduled until all the Ph.D. reader's cards have been signed and returned to the graduate studies administrative assistant. Only a dissertation unanimously and unconditionally approved by the readers may be defended.

### ***Defense of Dissertation***

The purpose of the Ph.D. Dissertation Defense is to explore the originality and significance of the candidate's dissertation. It is your responsibility to determine a mutually agreeable time for the defense. The scheduled date and time, accompanied with the readers' cards, are returned to the Graduate School at least 10 business days, excluding holidays, prior to the defense of the dissertation.

You are responsible for reserving a room for the defense and ensuring that the necessary audio-visual equipment is available. Assistance in

scheduling and locating equipment can be obtained from administrative staff.

The final dissertation defense is public. The candidate should post the time and place one week in advance of the defense. Your research advisor will act as the chair and moderator.

The examination begins with a summary presentation of thirty to forty minutes. You will be expected to present your research and place it in the context of the existing literature in the field, including the relevance of the work to a specific problem in bioengineering. After the presentation, the public audience may ask questions.

The presentation is followed by the closed oral examination. The committee members will question you in private, for a period of up to 120 minutes. If questioning exceeds 90 minutes, you should be offered, or may request a short break.

Following questioning, you will be excused, and your committee members will deliberate and cast official votes. The majority of members of the committee must vote pass in order for you to pass the examination. The individual votes will be recorded on the examination report form. You must return the voting form to the graduate school.

Failure of the defense does not necessarily require rewriting the dissertation. In the case of a failure, the student may be allowed a second opportunity to present a defense of their work based upon the recommendation of a majority of the candidacy examination committee members, the department chair and the approval of the Graduate School. Failure in the second defense

terminates the candidate's eligibility for a doctorate at the University.

### ***Publication of the Dissertation***

The dissertation serves as the scholarly record of the student's doctoral research, and should be published and disseminated. In addition to publications in the peer-reviewed literature, the graduate school publishes your dissertation in its entirety. The final version of the dissertation must conform to the requirements as outlined on the Graduate School's webpage: <http://graduateschool.nd.edu/resources-for-current-students/dt/>

Your dissertation *must* be checked for format conformity by the Graduate School before its final submission.

After the oral defense and approval by the Graduate School, you must upload a clear, print-quality PDF version of the complete dissertation to the Library's electronic submission website at <http://etd.nd.edu>. Note that the PDF upload requires the advisor-signed title page. The Library system allows students to have control over the electronic release of their dissertation so as to protect their intellectual property where appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the individual advisors and graduate students to support the cost, produce and distribute any bound copies of the student's dissertation. Any questions regarding Graduate School dissertation rules should be submitted to the Graduate School.

## **VI. FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

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### **A. Library**

The University Library system consists of a number of libraries. Circulation policies and operating hours are available at each of the libraries. Students should make themselves aware of the resources the libraries provide and become more familiar with them by visiting the University library web site, <http://library.nd.edu/>.

### **B. Computing Facilities**

The Office of Information Technologies (OIT) oversees an extensive variety of computers, workstation clusters, and personal computer facilities throughout campus. Many are open year-round, twenty-four hours a day. The University has a wide range of software and printing services available for the use of all students. For a complete current listing of University facilities, which change often, students should visit <http://oit.nd.edu>.

### **C. Laboratory Facilities**

You may work in a wide variety of laboratories across the University campus. These may be specific laboratories to your research group, or shared facilities that are supported by user fees.

### **D. Office Facilities**

All full-time graduate students have twenty-four hour access to personal office space. Offices are typically shared with other students. Each student will also have a mailbox located in or near the main administrative office in the building to which you have been assigned. Students are expected to maintain professional office environments, to maintain a neat office, and to be respectful and courteous to their officemates and others in their office environment.

### **E. Copying Facilities**

There are a number of copying facilities on campus, with services available at a charge. Many small machines are located in Hesburgh Library and each branch library. Your home department or your research group may maintain a copier for student use. Check with the administrative staff or your advisor to determine if you are allowed to use these resources.

### **F. Student Government Service**

Graduate students are responsible for the activities of the Graduate Student Union (GSU). Through a council of elected officers, appointed officers, and representatives from the departments of its constituent colleges, the GSU provides a variety of services and represents its membership on various University councils and committees. It publishes the bimonthly GSU newsletter, conducts a graduate orientation program, and sponsors workshops, travel grants, and various social and cultural activities. The GSU is the graduate students' official liaison with University administration, the Office of Student Activities, and the Library Administration. The GSU finances operations through a yearly fee assessed on all graduate students. The GSU maintains offices in 219 LaFortune Student Center, 631-6963; their website URL is: <http://www.gsu.nd.edu/>.

### **G. Health and Counseling**

There are many additional services available to graduate students. Most are described in detail in the *Bulletin of Information* or on the web at: <http://graduateschool.nd.edu/resources-for-current-students/>.

University Health Services, located in the University Health Center, 631-7497, provides immediate, follow-up, and ongoing health care. The services provided include outpatient clinics, dispensing medication, administering allergy injections, laboratory and x-ray facilities, and a twenty-five-bed inpatient unit. Health insurance is required of all international and full-time students. The University offers a plan for all students. The student's spouse and children have the option of purchasing health insurance through this plan. More information can be obtained by calling 631-6114. The University Counseling Center, located in the University Health Center, 631-7336, offers professional services to all graduate students and their families.

The University has several excellent athletic and exercise facilities, most of which are available free of charge.



## **H. Career and Placement**

The University's Graduate Career Services, 502 Main Building, provides assistance with post-graduate placement and professional development through online services and the guidance of its graduate career consultants. ([http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional\\_development/career/](http://graduateschool.nd.edu/professional_development/career/)).

## **I. International, and Religious Services**

The University supports an International Student Affairs Office, 205 LaFortune, 631-5243, which aids in immigration matters, serves as liaison with sponsoring agencies and governments, and promotes interaction within the University. The International Student Organization (ISO), 204 LaFortune, is a club for interested students.

Campus Ministry, 103 Hesburgh Library, 631-7800, offers programs and organizations to serve students' spiritual needs across a full range of faith traditions.

## **J. Graduate Student Life**

A unit within the Division of Student Affairs and in cooperation with the Graduate School, Graduate Student life (<http://gradlife.nd.edu/>) is committed to enhancing the educational experience and quality of life for Notre Dame students pursuing advanced degrees. The Graduate Student Life website contains reference links for special events and programs, family resources and information regarding campus life in general. A helpful Q&A weblog to answer your questions is also featured.

## APPENDIX A: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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In questions involving academic integrity the student is referred to the general policy found in the Graduate School *Bulletin of Information*.

The department expects all students to maintain and promote the highest standards of personal honesty and professional integrity. These standards apply to examinations, assigned papers, projects and preparation of the thesis or dissertation. Violation of these standards, which includes, but is not limited to cheating in examinations, plagiarism and fraudulent practices in conducting research or reporting the results of

such research, may result in suspension or dismissal.

Within the department, primary authority for judgment and decision on matters of academic integrity lies with the course instructor for issues, which arise in the classroom, or the faculty research advisor for issues that arise in research. Unsettled disputes should be referred first to the director of graduate studies and next to the department chair each of whom can serve as arbiters at the department level. Any further appeal should be directed to the Graduate School.

**APPENDIX B: FACULTY**

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<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Location</i>
Mark Alber	Applied & Computational Mathematics and Statistics	174B Hurley Hall
Basar Bilgicer	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	171 Fitzpatrick Hall
Joel Boerckel	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	142 MRB
Paul Bohn	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	318 Stinson-Remick
Hsueh-Chia Chang	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	118B Cushing Hall
Danny Chen	Computer Science and Engineering	326E Cushing Hall
David Go	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	370 Fitzpatrick Hall
Holly Goodson	Chemistry and Biochemistry	439 Stepan Chemistry
Paul Huber	Chemistry and Biochemistry	437 Stepan Chemistry
Jesus Izaguirre	Computer Science and Engineering	326C Cushing Hall
Greg Madey	Computer Science and Engineering	325B Cushing Hall
Tijana Milenkovic	Computer Science and Engineering	381 Fitzpatrick Hall
Robert Nerenburg	Civil & Environmental Engr & Earth Sciences	163 Fitzpatrick Hall
Glen Niebur	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	147 MRB
Tim Ovaert	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	146 MRB
Matt Ravosa	Anthropology; Aerospace and Mechanical Engr.	221 Galvin Life Sc.
Laurel Riek	Computer Science	Fitzpatrick Hall
Ryan Roeder	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	148 MRB
Steve Schmid	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	150 MRB
James Schmiedeler	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	373 Fitzpatrick Hall
Joshua Shrout	Civil Engineering and Biological Sciences	166 Fitzpatrick Hall
Bradley Smith	Chemistry and Biochemistry	383 Stepan Chemistry
Sharon Stack	Harper Cancer Research Institute	A200D Harper Hall
Gregory Timp	Electrical Engineering and Biological Sciences	326 Stinson-Remick
Jeremiah Zartman	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	122C Cushing Hall
Pinar Zorlutuna	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	144 Fitzpatrick Hall

MRB = Multidisciplinary Research Building

## APPENDIX C: MEDICAL SEPARATION FROM ACADEMIC DUTIES

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Students enrolled in the Notre Dame Graduate School who wish to temporarily interrupt their programs for medical reasons must apply to the Graduate School. Students are eligible under this policy if they have a “serious medical condition.” For purposes of this policy, “serious medical condition” means a medical condition that (1) requires multiple day hospitalization OR (2) renders the student unable to engage in coursework and all other Graduate School-related duties for a period of at least ten (10) calendar days. Certification by a physician that the student has a serious medical condition as defined in this policy must be submitted to the Graduate School no less than three months prior to the separation period (for childbirth and other predictable requests) or as soon as the need is foreseen (for emergency requests). In situations involving childbirth, the separation period will generally begin on the actual date of childbirth; in all cases, regardless of the nature of the medical condition, the duration of the separation will be as certified by the physician up to a maximum of 6 weeks. Students may utilize this medical separation policy two non-consecutive times during their graduate studies. Should students need more than 6 weeks at any one time, they must withdraw from the University. Leaves of absence for one semester or more for medical or other reasons are governed by the Graduate School Leave of Absence policy.

Full-time degree-seeking students in their 6<sup>th</sup> year of study or less who are receiving financial aid from the Graduate School or external funds will receive a stipend equal to their normal stipend during their period of separation, for a maximum of 6 weeks paid by the Graduate School. Students will retain their tuition scholarships, access to on-campus medical facilities, and all other resources available to students during the entire separation period (up to 6 weeks). Students also will be deemed “continuously enrolled” at the University during the entire period of separation.

Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant duties will cease at least during the period of separation. Students are responsible for making arrangements, through their departments, to cover their duties. Students taking classes will be required to make arrangements with individual course instructors for completion of any courses in progress during the leave. Students will be granted the option to re-schedule exams, extend candidacy deadlines or other deadlines not discussed herein. Students are responsible for making arrangements to reschedule exams, extend deadlines and to make up other work not discussed herein. Unlike a regular one-semester leave, time off in conjunction with this policy will count towards the students’ degree time limit of 8 years and university-sponsored funding cap of 6 years.



**APPENDIX E: CANDIDACY EXAMINATION REPORT**

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UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
Bioengineering Graduate Program

**Written Ph.D. Candidacy Examination**

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PLEASE PRINT:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ ND ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Advisor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

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All committee members must indicate scores in the passing range for the written proposal before scheduling the oral examination. See the following page for scoring criteria.

Note that this score is only for the written examination. The student must also take and pass the oral examination before advancement to candidacy.

**FACULTY SIGNATURES**

**Pass**

**Fail**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Committee Member*

Ex VG G

F P

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Committee Member*

Ex VG G

F P

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Committee Member*

Ex VG G

F P

Coursework Completed?:  YES  NO (At least nine courses should be completed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advisor Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ***Scoring Criteria for the written candidacy examination:***

### ***Excellent (EX)***

The proposal is exceptional in all respects. Specifically:

- The proposal demonstrates an independent research plan, sufficient in scope for a doctoral degree.
- The research direction is supported by a clear explanation of its significance.
- Sound critical thinking is applied in relationship to the existing state of knowledge and the proposed research.
- The hypotheses or objectives are supported by the literature or preliminary results, and the specific aims address these hypotheses or objectives.
- Appropriate experimental, analytical, and computational methods are defined to complete each aim.
- The writing and style are clear and concise.

### ***Very Good (VG)***

The proposal is of high quality. It meets the expectations of an excellent proposal, but may have slight deficiencies in some areas. The research can likely be completed, and the hypotheses and aims will be suitable as a basis for peer-reviewed publications. *The candidate should be provided with an explanation of the deficiencies in writing or in person, for example during the oral examination.*

### ***Good (G)***

The proposal is deficient in several areas, but it is likely that the research can be completed. Methodological errors are present that are easily correctable, the hypotheses/objectives may need refinement to be suitable as the basis for publication, or the overall scope is modest. *The candidate should be provided with an explanation of the deficiencies in writing or in person during the oral examination.*

### ***Fair (F)***

The proposal has significant flaws that the committee member believes can be repaired by thorough editing. For example, the hypotheses are not specific, the connection between the hypotheses, aims and research questions are ambiguous, or it is not clear that the methods can address the research questions. *The candidate should be provided with an explanation of the deficiencies in writing or in person. The oral examination will not proceed until the candidate sufficiently modifies the proposal to achieve a score of GOOD or higher.*

### ***Poor (P)***

The proposal lacks direction, the problem is not compelling, or the work is not considered to be of sufficient scope for a doctoral dissertation. It is unlikely that the proposal can be modified to meet the expectations of the committee member, and the committee member will not consider a revision of the proposal.

## APPENDIX F: IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

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### The Graduate School SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES Academic Year 2015-2016 & Summer 2016

The following are deadlines for class changes, examinations, and submission of various applications, lists, and materials required by the Graduate School for: Fall 2015 (January graduation), Spring 2016 (May graduation), and Summer 2015 (August graduation).

	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2016
First class day	Aug. 25	Jan. 12	Jun. 13
All course changes	Sept. 1	Jan. 19	—
Course discontinuance	Oct. 30	Mar. 18	—
Preliminary theses/dissertations submitted for formatting check*	Nov. 9	Mar. 14	Jun. 20
Master's comprehensive examinations & PhD dissertation defenses**	Dec. 1	Apr. 10	Jul. 13
Deadline to submit dissertations to readers***	Oct. 28	Mar. 14	Jun. 13
Last class day	Dec. 10	Apr. 27	Jul. 22
All admission to candidacy forms submitted to Graduate School	Dec. 7	Apr. 15	Jul. 18
Final theses/dissertations submitted to Graduate School	Dec. 7	Apr. 15	Jul. 18
Final exams begin	Dec. 14	May 2	—
Graduation date (official degree conferral)	Jan. 3	May 14	Jul. 31

\**Formatting checks should be submitted to the Graduate School when the document is given to readers, at least two to four weeks prior to the defense.*

\*\**Reader's reports must be submitted to the Graduate School before the defense takes place.*

\*\*\* *The dissertation defense may not be scheduled sooner than six weeks from the date the graduate studies administrative assistant receives the dissertation distribution form.*

For the most up-to-date deadlines for thesis and dissertation submission, please see: [the graduate school dissertation and thesis site](#).