



Integrative Biology Ph.D. Program

Director:
Dr. Rod Murphey

Associate Director:
Dr. Ken Dawson-Scully

Program Coordinators:
Michelle Cavallo & Cathy Trivigno

Financial aid

TA

- Academic year support (3 yrs)
- Based on performance as evidenced in TA Eval and fulfilling TA contract obligations
- Additional year support possible based on funding and performance in program and TA duties
- Must sign [TA contract](#)
- Must enroll in at least 1 credit
- ONLY your advisor can request a TA for you
- Salary = \$20K/yr + tuition waivers

RA

- Grant-based (advisor)
- Can go from RA to TA with one semester notice
- \$20K/yr. + tuition waivers
- Combination of RA/TA possible
- Other scholarships possible—consult advisor/E-Mail/FAU web page
- Once in the program, preference for aid if requirements are met

Registration

- **9 credits in Fall/Spring, 6 credits in the summer (max of 27 per year).**
- **MUST maintain 3.0 GPA for tuition waiver.**
- **Full time commitment required.**
- **Continuous registration (at least one credit per year). This is minimum. Need approval.**

Course Requirements- see web page for courses

Core courses

(9 – 10 credits)

- Integrative Biology (3)
- Scientific Communication (2)
- Statistics (3 or 4)

Electives

- Electives (9 credits) – selected by student and Supervisory Committee
- Three seminar/journal club/colloquium courses (not three credits) before graduation.
- May have to take additional electives (Supervisory Committee's decision)

Lab Rotations

- Required if you do not have an advisor.

Year 1

- **Meet with Advisor and or Director to:**
 - **Form supervisory committee (1st semester)**
 - **Enroll in Integrative Biology I (1st semester)**
 - **Choose electives (Committee Approval)**
 - **Register for Advanced Research (BSC7978)**
 - **New incoming students must register for Lab Rotations (BSC 6905) in the first/second semester if you do not have an identified advisor.**
- **Meet with Prog. Coord. to initiate e-Plan of Study (1st semester)**
- **Submit e-Plan of Study (within first 4 wks of 2nd semester)**
- **Submit Research Compliance & Safety Form (Form 12) and obtain required trainings (RCR, IACUC, IRB) prior to beginning research**
- **Submit First Year Report and meet with Supervisory Committee after the end of the first academic year—Committee will recommend continuance in the program. Chair of supervisory committee to submit a brief report of this meeting to the Program Director.**

Committees

- **Supervisory committee**
 - Three members including the advisor (chair)
 - **MUST** be formed before the end of semester 1
 - **Must be Program Faculty**
- **Dissertation committee**
 - Four members – Must have PhD
 - Three can be same as supervisory committee
 - One member **MUST** be from outside the immediate area of research
 - At least 3 members must be IB PhD Program Faculty
 - At least 3 members must be FAU Graduate Faculty
 - Committee **MUST** be in place one semester before candidacy exam.

Years 2-3

- **Complete core and electives (3-4 semesters)**
 - **MUST complete all core courses prior to candidacy**
- **Register for Adv. Research in Integrative Biology (BSC7978) until Candidacy is attained**
- **Choose Dissertation Committee (4th semester)**
- **Register for Scientific Communication (4th Semester)**
- **Candidacy Exam: Dissertation research proposal (in NIH format), grant writing and defend (fifth semester)**
 - **Admission to candidacy (by end of year 2 or beginning of year 3)**
- **Failure of candidacy exam (after second attempt) will result in drop from the program**
- **Failure to complete candidacy exam by 5th semester will be considered a failed first attempt**
- **Register for Dissertation research credits (BSC7980) once Candidacy is attained**

Candidacy exam

- **Propose Dissertation research**
 - (A) Oral defense seminar: presentation to the Dissertation Committee (open forum)
 - (B) Written Proposal: Write a grant application of the proposal in [NIH/NSF format](#) Submit grant to committee at least two weeks in advance of Dissertation Research Proposal seminar
- **These are the MINIMUM requirements (A & B)**
- **The committee MAY ask for additional testing**
- **Failed students have one more semester (last chance) in which to retake the exam.**

Admission to Candidacy

- **Must be admitted to Candidacy by end of year 2 or beginning of year 3**
– **No exceptions Can loose TA contract.**
- **Must Advance to Candidacy at least seven months prior to Dissertation Defense**
- **Must complete core and elective courses (18 credits) to advance**
- **Must have dissertation committee in place one semester before proposal**
- **Propose and defend research proposal to Dissertation Committee (open forum seminar)**
- **Submit signed (by Dissertation Committee) Admission to Candidacy Form (Form 8), copy of Dissertation Proposal, updated Milestones Checklist, and Annual Progress Report to Program Coord.**
- **See Student Guidelines and Policies**

Years 3-5

- **Continue dissertation research (minimum 25 credits)**
- **A minimum of seven months must elapse between attaining Candidacy and Dissertation Defense**
- **Grant writing**
- **Present results in internal/external meetings, peer reviewed publications**
- **With Committee's permission, submit manuscript, post flyers and announce defense one month in advance of seminar to Program Coord. via email—committee must receive manuscript 1 month in advance of oral defense seminar.**
- **Present (seminar) dissertation to the committee and public**

Yearly requirements

- **Milestones Checklist**
 - Update Milestones checklist once a year (**End of first semester and beginning of each subsequent Fall semester**)
 - This is **student' s** responsibility
 - Can update more frequently
 - Original is kept in your file
 - Registration for Fall semester- not allowed if checklist is not updated
- **Annual Research Progress Report (starting from end of second year)**
 - Due (**End of every Fall Semester**)
 - Once a year the research advisor and the student must submit a progress report on research activities.
 - Responsibility of advisor and student to complete report - Both must sign report

Best Contacts

Basic program related questions, paperwork, pay - contact mcavallo@fau.edu or trivigno@fau.edu

- Course related questions- Associate Director (Ken Dawson-Scully)
- TA/RA support - advisor to send request to Program Coordinator (Michelle/Cathy) and Lab Coordinator (Geri Mayer (Boca/Jupiter/HBOI) /Sheryl van der Heiden (Davie))
- TA lab assignment- contact gmayer@fau.edu or svander1@fau.edu
- Policy, candidacy and graduation issues-contact Michelle/Cathy or the Associate Director