

Irell & Manella
Graduate School of Biological Sciences

AT CITY OF HOPE

Ph.D. Student and Faculty
Handbook

2025-2026



BECKMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IRELL & MANELLA GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Introduction

City of Hope was founded in 1913, in Duarte, California, by working-class men and women who believed in helping those less fortunate than themselves. Although initially a tuberculosis sanatorium, research programs were initiated at City of Hope in 1951 and expanded rapidly until by the late 1970s approximately 130 PhD-level investigators were conducting a broad range of research programs throughout the institute.

In 1983, Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope was established with generous support from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. The Institute is comprised of basic science research groups within the departments of Cancer Biology and Molecular Medicine; Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics; Developmental and Stem Cell Biology; Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases Research; Experimental Therapeutics; Immuno-Oncology; Information Sciences; Lymphoma SPORE; Molecular Immunology; Molecular and Cellular Biology; and Population Sciences.

City of Hope has a long and impressive history of groundbreaking discoveries in the field of diabetes. In 2016 the Diabetes & Metabolism Research Institute was founded. The institute is comprised of the following departments and programs: Clinical Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism; Diabetes Complications & Metabolism; Diabetes Immunology; Molecular & Cellular Endocrinology; Translational Research & Cellular Therapeutics, and The Wanek Family Project for Type 1 Diabetes.

Hematologic cancers are those cancers that occur in cells of the immune system or in blood forming tissues, including bone marrow. As a pioneer in advancing care for all hematologic cancers and related blood disorders, City of Hope's Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplantation Institute leads the field as one of the largest and most successful transplant centers in the world. The institute also houses the Gehr Family Center for Leukemia Research, the Toni Stephenson Lymphoma Center, the Judy and Bernard Briskin Center for Multiple Myeloma Research, the Center for Gene Therapy, the Center for Stem Cell Transplantation, the Survivorship Center, and the Center for T Cell Transplantation.

City of Hope's innovative research programs continue to evolve and grow in many promising areas, including production of functional human hormones, radioimmunotherapy, neurosciences, stem cell research, and gene therapy.

City of Hope is a pioneer in the field of hematopoietic cell transplantation, and research into this therapy has been supported by a National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health program project grant since 1981. The Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation program provides opportunities for basic science investigations, as well as developing mechanisms for delivery of genetic material and novel therapeutic agents.

Chemically synthesized genes produced in the Biology Division were used to develop the first recombinant human peptide hormone which led to the commercial production of human insulin (Humulin, now used by millions of people with diabetes worldwide).

The study of monoclonal antibodies against the cancer antigen CEA (carcinoembryonic antigen) led to the establishment of the Radioimmunotherapy Program. Genetically engineered antibodies carrying radioactive isotopes are being used in cancer therapy trials and in studies designed to localize tumors in patients. The humanized monoclonal antibodies developed at City of Hope made possible the “smart” cancer drugs such as Herceptin, Rituxan, and Avastin, which are saving and extending lives.

Recent advances in neurosciences programs include the gene therapeutic “rescue” of neurotransmitter-deficient fruit flies; the discovery of necessary interaction between extracellular matrix molecules and neurotransmitter receptor gene expression; the identification of a motor neuronal-specific antigen that may be involved in the maintenance and regeneration of neuromuscular junctions; and the development of an organotypic spinal cord culture, valuable in studying nervous system development.

Mission Statement

Our mission at the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences is to train future leaders in biomedical sciences by combining immersive research experiences with educational programs that foster intellectual curiosity, instill rigor in scientific rationale, provide proficiency in experimental design and research planning, emphasize ethical responsibility, and facilitate professional skill development. The Graduate School strives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our institution, believing that a rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences strengthens scientific discovery and our collective impact on society.

Message from the Dean

City of Hope and Beckman Research Institute (which hosts the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences) have a remarkable history of innovation in science and medical care. Our faculty members have made major contributions in biological sciences and biomedicine and are widely recognized as leaders in their fields. The biotech industry was launched by investigators at City of Hope when they created the technology that led to the first human recombinant gene products, insulin, and human growth hormone, which are now in use by millions of people worldwide. The most recent class of blockbuster drugs, humanized monoclonal antibodies, is based upon a core technology developed by Beckman Research Institute researchers. Both basic science and translational biomedical research flourish here, in a collegial atmosphere where cross-communication thrives, and basic science findings are often applied to the cure of life-threatening diseases.

The Graduate School enrolled its first class of Ph.D. students in Biological Sciences in 1994. Our graduates have gone on to academic appointments and postdoctoral fellowships at some of the nation's best universities, as well as to positions in major biotech and pharmaceutical companies. City of Hope's interdisciplinary research programs provide students with many opportunities to enrich their graduate education by interacting with other graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members outside of their own areas of specialization. In 2021, the Graduate School expanded the scope of our doctoral training with a second PhD program in Translational Medicine. City of Hope has a strong track record in training both predoctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. In 2018 and 2022, the Graduate School initiated new joint master's programs in translational medicine and regulatory affairs with the Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences at Keck Graduate Institute. In 2024, the Graduate School initiated its own masters' program. In addition, we host undergraduate and high school researchers in our extensive summer internship program.

Welcome to the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences.

Graduate School Administration

John Carpten, M.D., Chief Scientific Officer

David Craig, Ph.D., Deputy Director

David Horne, Ph.D., Vice-Provost

David Ann, Ph.D., Dean

Yilun Liu, Ph.D., Vice Dean, & Director of MSTM Program

John R. Rossi, Ph.D., Emeritus Dean

Jeremy Stark, Ph.D., Director of PhD Curriculum

Markus Kalkum, Ph.D., Director of PhD Administration and Admissions

Christopher Sistrunk, Ph.D., Director of Professional Development and Education

Susan Neuhausen, Ph.D., Director of Assessment and Development

Mark LaBarge, Ph.D., Director for the Postdoctoral Training Office

Tijana Jovanovic-Talisman, Ph.D., Associate Director of PhD Admissions

Ke Ma, Ph.D., Associate Director of MSTM Program

Glenn Manthey, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruitment

Saundra Hilton, M.A., Sr. Admin Director

Sarah Bannister, Supervisor, Operations

Kendra Carter, M.B.A., M.H.A., P.M.P., Manager, Registrar Office

Linda McDaniel, Post-Doctoral Program Manager

Jennifer To, Academic Program Coordinator

Graduate School PhD Program Standing Committees Current Members

GRADUATE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

David Ann (Dean)	Yilun Liu (Vice Dean)	John Rossi (Dean Emeritus)
Markus Kalkum	Jeremy Stark	Mark LaBarge
Susan Neuhausen	Tijana Jovanovic Talisman	Ke Ma
Patrick Fueger	Mark Boldin	Hung-Ping Shih
John Kaddis	Christopher Sistrunk	Saundra Hilton
Sarah Bannister	Kendra Carter	Glenn Manthey
Linda McDaniel	GSO President	

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Tijana Jovanovic-Talisman (Chair)	Lindsey Trevino (Associate Chair)
John Kaddis	Markus Kalkum
Ya-Huei Kuo	Ed Manuel
Sarah Shuck	Helena Reijonen
Christopher Sistrunk	Rui Su
Rupangi Vasavada	Annabel Wang
Xiuli Wang	Zhao Wang
Yanzhong (Frankie) Yang	Glenn Manthey

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Susan Neuhausen (Chair)	Charles Brenner
Mark Boldin	Ke Ma
Dustin Schones	Jeremy Stark

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Jeremy Stark (Chair)	Mark LaBarge
Markus Kalkum	Nagarajan Vaidehi
Wendong Huang	Student Representatives

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christopher Sistrunk (Chair)	TBD
TBD	Daniela Castanotto
TBD	Kendra Carter
Victoria Seewaldt	TBD
Student Representatives	Postdoc Representatives

Course Numbering 2025-2026



IRELL & MANELLA GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COURSE NUMBERING as of August 31, 2025

COURSE ID	COURSE NAME	CREDIT UNITS	GRADE
BIOSCI 500	Responsible Conduct of Research, Scientific Rigor, and Reproducibility [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 501	Rigor and Reproducibility [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 502	Introduction to Grant Writing [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 504	Introduction to Programming with R [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 505	Concepts in Molecular Genetics Laboratory [R]	2	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 510	Biochemistry and Structural Biology [R]	4	A ~ F
BIOSCI 520	Principles of Gene Expression [R]	4	A ~ F
BIOSCI 521	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 1 (MCB1) [R]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 522	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 2 (MCB2) [R]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 530	Cell Biology [R]	4	A ~ F
BIOSCI 540	Biostatistics [R]	2	A ~ F
BIOSCI 542	Bioinformatics [R]	2	A ~ F
BIOSCI 543	Computational Molecular Biology [R]	2	A ~ F
BIOSCI 544	Biostatistics and Computational Biology [R]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 550	Fundamentals of Scientific Research [R]	6	A ~ F
BIOSCI 560	Laboratory Rotation I [R]	4	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 561	Laboratory Rotation II [R]	4	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 562	Laboratory Rotation III [R]	4	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 565	Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum [R]	2	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 580	Pathology Mini-Course [E] (Dr. Cardiff, 2016 Graduate School Distinguished Visiting Professor from UC Davis)	1	P, I, or F

BIOSCI 600	Scientific Writing [R]	2	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 600A	Scientific Writing A [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 600B	Scientific Writing B [R]	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 601	Ethical Issues in Stem Cell Biology and Medicine [E]	2	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 610	Advanced Topics in Comparative Medicine: The Mouse in Biomedical Research [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 615	Advanced Comparative Medicine I [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 616	Advanced Comparative Medicine II [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 620	Advanced Cancer Biology [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 625	Advanced Immunology and Immunotherapy	1.5	A ~ F
BIOSCI 630	Advanced Neurosciences [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 635	Advanced Virology [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 640	Advanced Stem Cell Biology [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 645	Advanced Stem Cell Research and Medicine [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 650	Advanced RNA [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 655	Advanced DNA Repair, Epigenetics, and Cancer [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 656	Advanced Molecular Biology of Cancer	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 660	Advanced Epigenomics [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 665	Advanced Cancer Metabolism [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 670	Mathematical Modeling and Methods for Biological Science [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 672	Big Data Analysis – Part A [E]	1.5	A ~ F
BIOSCI 673	Big Data Analysis – Part B [E]	1.5	A ~ F
BIOSCI 675	The Science of Health Disparities [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 680	Advanced Topics in Medicinal Chemistry: Drug Delivery [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 685	Advanced Topics in Diabetes: Therapeutic Targets and the Drug Development Pipeline [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 690	Advanced Topics in Diabetes and Metabolic Disease [E]	3	A ~ F
BIOSCI 700	Comparative Medicine Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 701	Current Science Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 702	DNA Repair Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 703	Epigenetics & Chromatin Structure Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 704	Immunology Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 705	Protein Post-Translation Modification Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 706	RNA Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F

BIOSCI 707	Signaling and Regulation with Translational Focus Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 708	Stem Cell, Development, and Regenerative Medicine Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 709	Structural and Chemical Biology Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 710	Tumor Immunology Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 711	RNA and Epigenetics & Chromatin Structure Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 712	Diabetes and Dysfunctional Metabolism Journal Club [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 713	T-Cell Immunotherapeutics [E]*	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 714	COH/TGen Precision Medicine [E]*	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 715	Computational and Theoretical Biology [E]*	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 716	The Intimate Link Between Cancer and Metabolism [E]*	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 730	Leading-Edge Lecture Seminar [E] *	1	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 735	Qualifying Exam 1 [R]	0	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 740	Lab Research [R] - after lab rotations and before advancement to candidacy*	8 to 12	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 745	Qualifying Exam 2 [R]	0	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 750	Qualifying Exam [R]	0	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 760	Independent Study [E]	3	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 800	Research for Dissertation [R] - prerequisite: advancement to candidacy *	10 to 12	P, I, or F
BIOSCI 805	Oral Dissertation Defense [R]	0	P, I, or F
* = Repeatable course			

City of Hope/Beckman Research Institute and University of Southern California Residency and Graduate Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine

The City of Hope/Beckman Research Institute (COH/BRI) and University of Southern California (USC) Residency and Graduate Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine includes two training options;

- 3-year residency training primarily at USC (laboratory animal medicine resident)
- 5-year combined residency and graduate training primarily at COH/BRI (laboratory animal medicine fellow)

The training program includes a full spectrum of clinical rounds, seminars, special projects pertaining to laboratory animal medicine, diagnostics, animal care and use, and teaching assignments. Laboratory animal medicine residents/fellows provide clinical services and veterinary care to the centrally administered support service for animal research and teaching programs at the COH/BRI Center for Comparative Medicine (CCM) Animal Care Program (ACP) and USC Department of Animal Resources (DAR) facilities. The training program provides postdoctoral (DVM) laboratory animal medicine residents/fellows with the intellectual depth and breadth, and appropriate clinical and research training in laboratory animal medicine, laboratory animal/comparative pathology, and comparative medicine.

Both training program options are designed to support preparation toward American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) board certification and to prepare individuals for academic careers in the biomedical sciences, laboratory animal science, and comparative medicine. The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biological Sciences is utilized as the graduate degree component of the 5-year combined residency and graduate training program option and provides ample opportunities for specific training in the development of biomedical models and research methodology as well as in other areas important for specialty board certification by the ACLAM. The COH/BRI and USC Residency and Graduate Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine is accredited and officially recognized by the ACLAM.

The Training Program Directors are:

Dr. Richard W. Ermel DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACLAM

Professor/Director – Center for Comparative Medicine

Director – Animal Care Program; City of Hope/Beckman Research Institute

Dr. Ari Aycock-Williams DVM, DACLAM

Executive Director – Department of Animal Resources

University of Southern California

Residency and Graduate Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine Schedule for Laboratory Animal Medicine Fellows (4 Quarters/Year)			
	Summer	Fall	Spring
Year 1	15% Didactic Training 85% Clinical Rotations Courses: Advanced Topics in Comparative Medicine (ATCM); Responsible Conduct of Research	15% Didactic Training Courses: ATCM; Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 1; Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 2	15% Didactic Training Courses: ATCM; Biostatistics and Computational Biology; Fundamentals of Scientific Research;
Year 2	15% Didactic Training 85% Laboratory Rotations (2 eight-week rotations) Courses: ATCM; Comparative Medicine Journal Club (CMJC); Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum	15% Didactic Training 35% Clinical Rotations 50% Laboratory Rotation (Optional rotation) Courses: ATCM; CMJC	15% Didactic Training 35% Clinical Rotations 50% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC; Scientific Writing
Year 3	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Qualifying Exam Courses: ATCM; CMJC Dissertation PhD	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC
Year 4	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC
Year 5	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC	15% Didactic Training 85% Thesis Research Courses: ATCM; CMJC	Defend PhD Thesis/Dissertation Courses: ATCM; CMJC

Key dates for the Laboratory Animal Medicine Fellows:

1st rotation – June – August (Year 2)

2nd rotation – August– September (Year 2)

3rd rotation – September-October optional (Year 2)

Petition for Dissertation Research Mentor – October 15th (Year 2)

Qualifying Exam Deadline – September 30th (Year 3)

Policies and Procedures

Academic Standards

The Faculty and Staff of the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences value high academic standards and believe that they are critical to ensure the overall quality of the Graduate School. The Graduate School Leadership (GSL), in consultation with the Dean and Vice Dean of the School, shall oversee the academic standards of the PhD program including verification of fulfillment of academic and graduation requirements.

Sanctions

When a student does not meet the standards for adequate academic progress, the following procedures will be used to determine whether the student is failing to make satisfactory progress and/or whether an ethical or behavioral problem exists.

The Graduate School Leadership will review all cases of students who are not in Good Standing. For cases which result in a finding of insufficient academic performance or progress, professional practice field training unsuitability, or unethical or inappropriate behavior the following actions may be recommended.

Probation

Probationary status is recommended when a student's academic progress or professional development has been inconsistent with the Graduate School's requirements. A student is given a specific amount of time (usually one term) in which to remediate the cause(s) of probation or will otherwise face dismissal from the program. The Graduate School Leadership will make the final determination regarding the length of time to remediate.

When the Graduate School Leadership acts to implement Warning or Probation status, the Thesis Advisor (if applicable), Thesis Committee Chair (if applicable), and the Registrar will be responsible for monitoring and advising the progression of a student in a remediation plan. The process for monitoring students includes regular reports from the student and/or their mentor, reviewing student files and, as necessary and appropriate, recalling students to meet with the Graduate School Leadership. It shall be the responsibility of the Graduate School Leadership in such circumstances to review the case and to determine whether the student has completed all the requirements of the remediation, in which case the removal of the Probationary status will be recommended. In the event that the Graduate School Leadership determines that the conditions that resulted in Probation have not been remediated, the Graduate School Leadership may recommend other action including a) continuance of the status of Probation or b) that a more severe sanction be imposed.

Mandatory Leave of Absence

A student is recommended for Mandatory Leave of Absence in those cases in which the academic work or professional development, in the opinion of the Dean of the Graduate School, and taking into consideration the Graduate School Leadership's recommendations, requires serious remediation that necessitates a temporary leave from the Graduate School in order to complete the required remediation. Required leave of absences may result in the termination of stipend payments.

Termination

A student may be terminated from the academic program when conditions are judged to be of a serious nature and are not judged to be remediable. Grounds for termination include insufficient grade point average and/or multiple Incompletes or Fail grades, serious violation of the Graduate School's standards of conducts and ethics or when a student has failed to remediate previously identified deficiencies within the specified time.

Dismissal and Suspension Policies

Students may be suspended or dismissed as a result of unsatisfactory performance as judged by their mentor or dissertation committee.

The grounds for dismissal are:

- twice failing a required course;
- failing a qualifying examination;
- unsatisfactory performance as judged by the thesis committee;
- unethical performance - scientific misconduct, plagiarism, cheating;
- unexcused failure to meet Graduate School requirements;
- prolonged, unexcused absence;
- violation of applicable laws and policies, including but not limited to those set forth herein, or other inappropriate misconduct, as may be determined by the Dean of the Graduate School; Unauthorized leaves of absence or failure to return from an approved leave;
- Failure to comply with school and/or City of Hope code of conduct and procedures;
- Failure to submit student fees;
- Evidence of personal factors (interpersonal or intrapersonal) that may hinder the student's professional and academic competence.

One of the consequences of unsatisfactory academic performance is that it inevitably slows a student's progress toward the doctoral degree. A student who has failed two of the first-year courses is not eligible to take the Fundamentals of Scientific Research course. A student who has not passed the core curriculum courses may not take the qualifying examination until the course(s) has been passed. Another consequence of unsatisfactory academic performance is that a student is not eligible for travel grants and merit fellowships.

Use of Alcohol / Illegal Substances

Use of alcohol or drugs that violates applicable laws is strictly prohibited. In addition, students must comply with rules regarding campus activities involving the legal use of such substances.

The illegal or abusive use of alcohol and/or other drugs by students impacts educational outcomes. Students needing assistance in addressing issues involving drug or alcohol use are encouraged to seek help through the Horizon Health assistance plan offered to students, which may be accessed by calling (888) 293-6948 / TTD (866) 846-5949. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Alcohol

Expectations regarding alcohol use include for on and off campus events, include the following:

1. The purchase, possession, or consumption of any alcoholic beverages (including beer and wine) by any person under the age of 21 is prohibited.
2. Alcoholic beverages will not be provided to individuals under 21 years of age.
3. The selling, either directly or indirectly, of alcoholic beverages (including beer and wine) except under the authority of a California Alcoholic Beverage Control Board license is prohibited. This includes selling cups, mixes, ice, tickets for admission, required donations, etc.
4. The serving of alcohol to an intoxicated person or to the point of intoxication is prohibited.
5. The act(s) of being drunk and disorderly in public view, including on campus and public sidewalks and walkways surrounding the campus, is prohibited.
6. Behavior that is disruptive or abusive to others as a result of using intoxicants is strictly prohibited.

Individuals planning to serve alcohol at any on-campus function must get prior approval. Contact the Business Operations Supervisor for additional information. Approval must be obtained for all events on campus.

Drug Policy

The Graduate School expects all students and student groups to comply with all local, state, and federal laws regarding the use, possession, sale, or consumption of illegal drugs. It is the responsibility of each individual to be aware of, and abide by, all federal, state, and local ordinances and Graduate school regulations regarding the same. Current laws provide for severe penalties for violations which may result in criminal records.

Tobacco Policy

The use of all tobacco products, including E-Cigarettes, is prohibited inside and on all City of Hope premises, including in student housing and vehicles parked on City of Hope premises.

Grievance Procedure

A grievance is any alleged unauthorized or unjustified act or decision by a member of the faculty, staff, and/or management employee that adversely impacts the status, rights, or privileges of a student. This process should be used to settle grievances that are not considered in the Handbook with respect to specific policies or investigations and that have not been amicably resolved. Members of the grievance committee and the participants in the process must respect confidentially for students and faculty and conform to FERPA regulations.

Student appeals and grievances should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School within thirty days of the date of the action notice. Students will be entitled to a hearing, if an appropriate, timely request is made, as determined by the Dean. The request for a hearing should include the student's reasons for requesting the meeting and name parties, if any, who the student believes are pertinent to the grievance.

Within thirty days, the Dean will constitute an *ad hoc* grievance committee comprising at least two faculty members, two student members, and one Director who will chair the committee. None of the members of the committee should be personally involved in the subject matter of the grievance. The grievance committee shall interview parties as they see fit, including those suggested by the student, and gather all materials from the Graduate School that allow them to make a fair and unbiased decision which they should submit to the Dean within thirty days after constitution of the committee.

The Dean shall inform the student of the committee's decision within fifteen days of receipt of the decision and indicate if the Dean supports the committee's decision. If the Dean does not support the committee's decision, the Dean shall indicate the reason in writing.

All cases for dismissal will be brought before the Graduate School Leadership who will make a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School.

The Dean will make the final decision in all cases. The proceedings shall become part of the student's record.

Title IX Equal Education Opportunities

The Graduate School wants its students to be fully informed about Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. (1988), which prohibits sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs.

This law states in part:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

The Title IX coordinator for City of Hope's Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences is Joline Treanor, Chief Human Resource Officer, email: jtreaanor@coh.org. The purpose of the Title IX coordinator is to coordinate the Graduate School's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX. The Graduate school has adopted grievance procedures to govern the resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Title IX. These procedures are attached [Appendix A: Federal Compliance](#) to the student handbook disseminated annually to students and are also available from the Title IX coordinator.

Harassment / Discrimination

The Graduate School is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. No one may be discriminated against because of national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, age, color, citizenship, or disability. Harassment in any form is prohibited, including verbal, physical and visual sexual harassment. Any student who believes they have been harassed by a fellow student, staff member, mentor, or representative of the institution should promptly report the incident to Title IX Coordinator, Joline Treanor, Chief Human Resource Officer, email: jtreaanor@coh.org.

Reasonable Accommodation

The Graduate School complies with the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and has adopted a policy that assures continued reasonable accommodation will be provided for students with disabilities, so they can participate fully in the educational program and activities.

The general definition of a student with a disability is any person who has "a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities," and any person who has "a history of, or is regarded as having, such an impairment." The Graduate School is not required by law to change the "fundamental nature or essential curricular components of its programs in order to accommodate the needs of disabled students," but it must provide reasonable academic accommodation.

Students with learning disabilities as well as physical disabilities may register for accommodations with Mark Briskie, Senior Disability Administrator, mbriskie@coh.org, extension 85367.

FERPA-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly referred to as FERPA, is designed to protect the privacy of student education records. It affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records and describes circumstances under which the institution may disclose education records. These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review their educational records.
- The right to request an amendment of their education records.
- The right to consent to the disclosure of their education records.
- The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education.

Anti-Bullying Environment

The Graduate School will not in any instance tolerate abusive, disrespectful, or bullying behavior (referred to in this policy as “bullying behavior”) by or towards any person, including but not limited to, students, staff, leadership, chairs, faculty, and visitors. Any bullying behavior, regardless of intent, is unacceptable. The Graduate School defines bullying as severe and/or repeated mistreatment of one or more people by one or more perpetrators. Bullying generally includes abusive conduct such as:

- Threatening, humiliating, or intimidating behaviors.
- Work interference/sabotage that prevents work from getting done (or attempts to prevent work from getting done).
- Verbal abuse.

Bullying conduct does not need to be based upon any aspect of an individual’s identity that is protected by law to constitute a violation of this policy.

Although it is not possible to identify every type of conduct that may violate this policy, the Graduate School considers the following types of behavior to be examples of bullying:

- Verbal bullying: Slandering, ridiculing, or maligning a person or their appearance, lifestyle, family, or culture; persistent name-calling that is hurtful, insulting or humiliating; using a person as the butt of jokes or pranks; abusive and offensive remarks; or spreading rumors.
- Physical bullying: Pushing, shoving, kicking, poking, tripping, assault, or threat of physical assault; or damage to a person’s work area or property.
- Gesture bullying: Nonverbal gestures that can convey threatening messages.
- Exclusion: Socially or physically excluding or disregarding a person in work-related activities.
- Sabotage: Subverting, obstructing, or disrupting another person’s work performance.

Cyberbullying refers to bullying, as defined above, that occurs using a computer, cell phone, smartphone, tablet, pager, or other device that transmits electronic information, regardless of

whether the device is owned by or connected to City of Hope's network. Cyberbullying is also prohibited.

There is a difference between bullying and appropriate supervision. Examples of reasonable supervisory actions, when carried out in an appropriate manner, include:

- Providing performance appraisals, where applicable;
- Coaching or providing constructive feedback;
- Monitoring or restricting access to sensitive information for legitimate business reasons;
- Scheduling ongoing meetings to address performance issues;
- Setting aggressive performance goals to help meet departmental goals; and
- Counseling or disciplining for misconduct.

This policy in no way prohibits students from engaging in any activities that are protected under applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to any activity that is protected under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, which includes the right of employees to speak, raise concerns and/or debate about their wages, hours and working conditions.

All personnel are strongly encouraged to report any bullying conduct they experience or witness as soon as possible to an Associate Director/Director, the Dean, or the Vice Provost; or to Human Resources so that the concerns can be addressed. Individuals may also report any issues and concerns on a completely confidential basis by completing a TIPS form or by contacting Corporate Compliance.

Anyone in a management or leadership capacity who becomes aware of or receives a complaint of bullying, through any channel, must immediately inform Human Resources. The Graduate School will conduct a fair and timely investigation whenever it receives an allegation of bullying. Complaints and investigations will be kept confidential to the extent possible.

If the Graduate School concludes that a violation of this policy has occurred, prompt and effective remedial action will be taken. The Graduate School may also report to law enforcement, if appropriate. Retaliation is strictly prohibited, and no action will be taken against any person for reporting possible violations of this policy in good faith.

Respectful Treatment of Others

The Graduate School is a multicultural community of people from diverse racial, ethnic and class backgrounds, national origins, religious and political beliefs, physical abilities, and sexual orientations. Our interactions are enriched by our acceptance of one another, and we strive to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Students are expected to take responsibility for awareness of racism, sexism, ageism, xenophobia, homophobia, and other forms of oppression.

Discrimination will not be tolerated in our community. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation, or violence against a person or property. In this context, we do not accept alcohol or substance abuse as an excuse, reason, or rationale for such abuse, harassment, intimidation, or violence. Such inappropriate behavior will subject a student to discipline.

Academic Standing

Students are expected to make satisfactory academic and professional progress throughout their academic program.

Good Academic Standing:

For the purposes of eligibility and renewal of internal award programs, students must meet all the SAP requirements and maintain a minimum cumulative grade of B- or GPA of 2.7 (80-82%). This includes adherence to City of Hope and IMGS policies, procedures, and codes of conduct. First year and transfer students must complete one trimester to meet good academic standing requirements.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Students are expected to make satisfactory academic progress throughout their academic program. SAP will be evaluated at the end of every trimester. Students with particular questions concerning satisfactory progress should contact the Registrar.

SAP Requirements:

- Maintaining a minimum passing grade of B- for every course
- Maintaining a minimum of cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Adhering to all Dissertation guidelines, meetings, and deadlines as defined in the Student/Faculty Handbook
- Meeting the professional and academic expectations as defined in the degree requirements section in the Student/Faculty Handbook
- Behaving consistently with professional and ethical standards as outlined in the Ethical Principles and Practices in the Student/Faculty Handbook
- Completing academic and educational projects, reports, and programs by deadlines

Transfer Credit:

Transfer credit for classes taken in an equivalent PhD program prior to joining the Graduate School will be considered. Transfer credit for classes must be approved by the Graduate School Leadership/Curriculum Committee and be recorded on the students' transcript and course syllabus. Students must earn a B- or better to receive course credit.

Course Dropping Policy:

A student may withdraw from a course if they notify the registrar and course coordinator during the first third of the course. The student will receive a "W" on her/his transcript. This grade bears no grade point equivalent and is not added into the end-of-term average for a student. It is not possible to drop the course after the first third of the course.

Incomplete Course:

A grade of incomplete is given when a student, who has been making satisfactory progress in a course, experiences an unexpected hardship or illness making it impossible for her/him to complete the course requirements. If a student received an "I" in a given course at the end of the term, she/he is required to remove this condition to the satisfaction of her/his instructor by the end of the first month of the following term. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the course.

Repeating Courses:

If a student receives a failing grade in a required course, she/he must retake the course. If the course is a part of a sequential series, the student will not be allowed to move to the next part of the sequence until a passing grade is obtained in that course. If the student repeats the failed course and improves her/his grade, the "F" grade will be supplanted by the improved grade. The improved grade will be the grade used in determining the cumulative grade point average of the student.

If the student receives a failing grade in a non-required course, she/he has two choices:

1. If she/he repeats the elective, an improved grade will supplant the failed grade and will be used in determining the cumulative grade point average.
2. If she/he does not choose to repeat the elective, the "F" grade will remain on the transcript and will be used in the determination of the cumulative grade point average.

Unsatisfactory Progress

The following are grounds for determining that satisfactory progress in the academic program is not being made:

- Failure to maintain a minimum of B- in every course.
- Receipt of a "Fail" grade in a course or required activity.
- Failure to complete required LEL seminars, journal club, rotations, or annual committee meeting by deadlines.
- Failure to complete rotation reports by due dates as indicated in the Student/Faculty Handbook.
- Failure to adhere to Qualifying Examination guidelines and deadlines as defined in the Student/Faculty Handbook.
- Failing a qualifying examination.
- Violation of professional or ethical conduct policies.
- Little or no progress on the dissertation, as determined by dissertation mentor and/or committee meetings.
- Failure to comply with Graduate School and/or City of Hope rules and procedures.
- Evidence of personal factors (interpersonal or intrapersonal) that may hinder the student's professional and academic competence.
- Violation of Student/Faculty Handbook policies and procedures.
- Violation of City of Hope policies and procedures.

One of the consequences of unsatisfactory academic performance is that it inevitably slows a student's progress toward the PhD degree. Another consequence of unsatisfactory academic performance is that a student is not eligible for travel grants and merit fellowships.

Failure to Meet Academic Standards

At the close of each trimester the academic status of every student will be audited. All students who have met standards for academic progress will be deemed to be in "Good Standing." Any student who has failed to meet the standards described above will have their file reviewed by the Graduate School Leadership.

The following sanctions will apply to any student not in Good Standing:

- A registration hold may be placed on the student record which will prohibit registration for courses. This also includes auditing a course.
- The student may not apply for travel funding, institutional fellowships, or other Graduate School funding.
- The student may not submit to or collect business requests from the Registrar's office. This may include certifications, loan deferrals, proof of student status, academic audits, diploma requests, official or unofficial transcripts, and grade requests.

Degree Completion Timeline

The program is designed for PhD-BS students and PhD-TM students to complete their degree requirements by the end of the 5th and 4th academic years, respectively. Students that go beyond this timeframe should develop a plan to complete their requirements without delay. Indeed, all students must complete their requirements before the end of the 7th and 6th academic years, respectively.

Student Status Timeline

Students can retain their student status for up to 90 calendar days after their PhD defense date. This 90-day extension is contingent on availability of funds to support the stipend (i.e., stipend support for 90 days is not guaranteed, but rather is allowed). Regarding the timeline for completing their degree within this 90-day limit, students may retain their student status for 3 weeks after completing all degree requirements, to facilitate a seamless transition to their next position, and to perform all closeout duties, such as organizing their lab materials.

Exceptions to Academic Regulations

A request for an exception to a published Graduate School academic policy or a request for any special academic privilege must be made in writing via email to the Registrar. All documentary evidence in support of each application for academic extension, exception or academic privilege should be submitted with the written request. Each case will be decided on its own merits. All extensions, exceptions, waivers, and special privileges are subject to review by the Dean and/or the Graduate School Leadership for a final decision. Students are encouraged to maintain their own personal copies of all paperwork submitted.

Mandatory Compliance Training

Graduate Students must comply with yearly mandatory compliance, harassment training and submit annual health paperwork (in the month of birth). If students fail to complete these requirements by the due date, they will be suspended from the Graduate School until all requirements are completed.

International Students (F-1):

To maintain their immigration status, international students on F-1 visa must maintain a full course of study at all times. International students seeking to take leave or drop below full course of study must first obtain approval from the school's Designated School Officials (DSOs). Requests may be approved for the following reasons (8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i) and (iii)):

- (1) Initial academic difficulties;
- (2) A temporary illness or medical condition (with medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist but not to exceed an aggregate of 12 months); or
- (3) Need fewer courses than a full course load in their last term to complete the program of study.

Benefits

Graduate Student/Non-Employees receive medical and dental benefits through Gallagher (formerly named Garnett Powers), and they are administered through City of Hope Human Resources. Details about benefits may be found at <http://www.garnett-powers.com/coh>.

While on an approved leave of absence, students are eligible to continue coverage under the Trainee and Affiliate's health benefit plans (administered by Gallagher). City of Hope will pay the student's portion of the cost of benefits until the student returns from leave up until twelve (12) weeks. When the student returns from leave, he/she/they will be required to repay missed contributions through payroll deduction. If the approved leave becomes unpaid after twelve (12) weeks, health benefits will terminate on the 1st of the following month and the student will be offered COBRA continuation coverage at their own expense.

To obtain more information regarding leave of absence, disability payments and filing a claim with Aflac, students may contact City of Hope's Benefits department at benefitsLOA@coh.org.

Re-enrollment after > 12 months of leave of absence requires Graduate School approval.

Wellness

The Graduate School Administration (Dean, Vice Dean, Program Director, MSTM Admissions and Administration Committee and Office Staff) are here to assist if a graduate student needs help. There are resources that may not be listed. If the student reaches out, we can connect them accordingly. Please feel free to email or come into the Graduate School if additional assistance is needed.

- Rideshare Program: Benefits include free shuttle from Baldwin Park station, reserved carpool spaces, bike lockers, bike racks, and a public transportation subsidy for a Metrolink/Metro Pass up to \$100.00 depending on the type of pass. You can view these at <https://coh.mycarpool.net/> with the access code: climate.
- Employee Assistance Program – Students are eligible to participate in this program via Lyra Health which helps with a variety of personal life matters including stress management, legal/financial services, childcare/elder care referrals, parenting skills, grieving, managing relationships or balancing work and life. To schedule an on-site counseling appointment, go to coh.lyrahealth.com or contact the Lyra Care Navigator Team at (877) 672-1266 and care@lyrahealth.com. The Graduate School's Duarte Campus Onsite Provider is Monica R. Martinez, LMFT.
- Wellness Program: Students can earn points up to \$300.00 in gift cards for daily activities such as tracking healthy habits, reading about healthy habits, walking, and for getting an annual biometric screening or flu shot. Plus, you will receive an additional \$25.00 credit toward purchasing a step-tracking device. You can join this program by visiting join.VirginPulse.com/CityofHope then download the Virgin Pulse app.

Stipend Support

The Graduate School offers all PhD students five years of guaranteed stipend support, provided that they remain in good academic standing throughout the whole training period. This financial support applies to both domestic and international students admitted to our doctoral programs. Before entering their sixth or seventh year, students may petition the Graduate School for an extension to their stipend support beyond the fifth year. In consultation with the student's dissertation committee and mentor, the request will only be granted if the student sufficiently demonstrates the need for extension, which includes, but is not limited to, additional time needed to complete dissertation/manuscript writing or to wrap up final experiments. Students beyond their seventh years are not eligible for stipend support but may continue without funding or with funding through an external fellowship.

Student Fees

Student fees are used for student activities such as off campus outings, the Beckman Pub, GSO meeting refreshments, outreach activities such as adopt a family and the pediatric parade. The utilization of these student fees is decided by the Graduate Student Organization (GSO).

Student fees of \$75 are collected twice a year from doctoral graduate students. First-year students must pay by check in advance. Advanced students pay by payroll deduction (October and March).

Transcript Request

Official academic transcripts can be ordered from the Registrar using the [Transcript Request Form](#). (A fee of \$10 for electronic copies or \$30 for mailed copies will be charged per transcript payable by personal check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to City of Hope. This fee shall be waived if the school receives proof that a fellowship or grant application has been submitted. Standard orders are processed within four business days of receipt of the order. Delivery time is not included in processing time and varies by delivery service and local area. Transcripts held for in-person delivery are picked up from the Registrar. If you have outstanding financial obligations to the school your transcript request will be delayed until payment is received.

Replacement Diplomas

A graduate of the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences can request a replacement diploma if the original has been lost or destroyed, or to request a re-issue after a graduate's legal name change. Evidence of a court order changing the legal name is required. A fee of \$35 will be charged per request payable by personal check. Checks should be made payable to City of Hope. The replacement diploma bears a re-issue date and the signatures of the current Dean and City of Hope signatories. A replacement diploma has an eight-week processing time. Delivery is not included in the processing time and varies by delivery service and local area.

Student Loans

Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope does not offer financial aid to PhD students. IMGS does participate in Title IV loan deferment as an exempt institution so that students may defer student loans from previous education. Please contact the Registrar to assist graduate students in good academic standing to defer their government and private undergraduate study loans and obtain the U.S. Department of Education Office of Post-Secondary Education identification number (OPEID).

When a graduate student in good academic standing needs to provide a certification of current enrollment letter to their private loan agency or other entity, the Registrar can also help with this matter.

Hardship Supplement

Students with demonstrable financial hardship due to unexpected circumstances may apply to the Graduate School for a “Hardship Supplement.” Supplements will be provided as funding permits. [Hardship Supplement Applications](#) should be submitted to the Director of Ph.D. Administration and Admissions. To apply the student must supply a complete budget justification, supporting documents, and a request for a specific total dollar amount. Additional documentation may be requested to verify financial hardship. To qualify students must be in good academic standing.

Laptops

The Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences provides each first-year PhD graduate student with a laptop during orientation. The [Student Laptop Policy](#) notes that it is each student’s responsibility to maintain the laptop in good working order and utilize it appropriately. Should the laptop be damaged, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the City of Hope IT department to arrange for repairs at the student’s expense. The student shall return the laptop and all peripheral equipment to the Registrar before the student exits the program. If laptops are not returned the school will be unable to provide transcripts upon request or degree diplomas. Also, students run the risk of being personally responsible for full repair or replacement cost of the computer.

Attendance

Students are required to be in attendance full-time for both instructional and research activities. The student commitment is full-time, subject to any rights to time off under applicable law and with reasonable consideration for holidays, illness, and leaves of absence as described below. Students are expected to make steady progress on their dissertation topic because the outcome of their research impacts their mentors, colleagues in the lab, and the entire institute. Students are discouraged from engaging in part-time employment on the side as this will diminish the quality of their research and slow their progress toward their degree. Occasionally, an advanced student may begin to transition to their next position, such as teaching part-time at night, but given the nature of the program, students are expected to advise the Graduate School Office before beginning any outside employment, so that City of Hope and the student may determine that the outside employment does not pose a conflict of interest. This policy is specifically for employment that provides a unique/distinct training experience for the student that is not possible without such employment. Additionally, any student holding outside employment will be expected to meet all expectations of the Graduate School Program, regardless of any outside employment.

Remote Work Outside the Region

Remote working from any domicile that is outside the immediate region of City of Hope (i.e., within a daily commutable distance) is strongly discouraged and considered detrimental to the intentions of a graduate education in biological sciences. Graduate students are required to be in attendance full time for instructional, professional development, and research activities. If a student requests to work away from this area, they must verify that all the potential lab work needed to defend their dissertation or thesis is completed and submit a [Request to Work Outside the Region Form](#). via email to the student's mentor, and the Registrar. Permission to work outside the COH region can only commence after all parties have agreed to a timeframe, work plan, and benchmarks/deliverables, indicating agreement by signing of the aforementioned request form. Signing by the student's committee chair indicates the committee's general agreement that work on the dissertation research can continue towards completion according to the plan described. 1st year students are ineligible for work outside of the region. As a reminder, international students on Visa status should contact the City of Hope Immigration Services Administrator before travelling abroad. Leaving the area without permission, or beyond the approved timeframe, will result in academic probation, which can lead to mandatory leave of absence, suspension, or dismissal from the program.

Leaves of Absence

The student's advisor and the Graduate School Office must be informed when a student is not available to conduct their laboratory research or attend classes at City of Hope. If a student has a serious illness, personal emergency, pregnancy, military deployment or other event that requires more than ten days, they may request a leave of absence from their mentor and the Graduate School Office by submitting the [Absence Request Form](#).

Pay While on Medical Leave

If a student is approved for disability leave, the school or the mentor will continue stipend payments (provided that the student is in good academic standing) up to a maximum of eight (8) weeks at 100%, reduced and coordinated with City of Hope's Short-Term Disability Insurance Plan and California's State Disability Insurance, if applicable. City of Hope's Short-Term Disability Insurance Plan provides sixty percent (60%) of pre-disability income up to a weekly maximum of \$1,500 per week.

After eight (8) weeks, if the student is unable to return to the program due to a continued qualified disability, the student will continue to receive weekly disability benefits under the provisions of City of Hope's Short-Term Disability Insurance Plan. If student is no longer deemed disabled by their healthcare provider and the leave of absence is approved for additional days, the remaining approved leave period is unpaid. Any unused vacation hours provided by the Graduate School may be used to supplement pay.

Pay While on Family or Parental Leave

If a student is approved for family or parental leave, the school or the mentor will continue stipend payments (provided that the student is in good academic standing) up to a maximum of eight (8) weeks at 70%. This benefit may be reduced and coordinated with California's State Paid Family Leave program, if applicable.

After eight (8) weeks, if the student is unable to return to the program due to reasons other than their own serious health condition, the remaining approved leave period will be unpaid. Any unused vacation hours provided by the Graduate School may be used to supplement pay.

Health Benefits While on Leave

While on an approved leave of absence, students are eligible to continue coverage under the Trainee and Affiliate's health benefit plans (administered by Gallagher). If the student is receiving stipend payments through City of Hope's payroll, contributions are deducted from the student's paycheck and health coverage remains active. If the approved leave becomes unpaid, City of Hope will pay the student's portion of the cost of benefits for up to 6 months. When the student returns from leave, the student will be required to repay missed contributions through payroll deduction. If the approved leave becomes unpaid after 6 months, health benefits will

terminate on the 1st of the following month, and the student will be offered *Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)* continuation coverage at their own expense.

To obtain more information regarding leave of absence, disability payments and filing a claim, students may contact City of Hope's Benefits department at benefitsLOA@coh.org or (626) 476-4240.

Re-enrollment after > 12 months of leave of absence requires Graduate School approval.

Student Accessibility Services

Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences (IMGS) is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities including those with mobility, visual, speech, hearing impairments; chronic illnesses, psychological and intellectual disabilities; and temporary disabilities.

Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits discrimination against an otherwise qualified individual with a disability, solely on the basis of the disability, in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

Confidentiality:

IMGS follows the same policy set forth in the Enterprise EEO Policy. IMGS complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended, and other applicable state and federal law prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Under these laws, students have the privilege to confidentiality. IMGS recognizes that student health information is confidential information as per state and federal laws.

Registering for Accommodations

Self-identification is voluntary. All students with a disability that are seeking accommodations must register with Mark Briskie (mbriskie@coh.org), Senior Disability Administrator, and Monique Mooring (mmooring@coh.org), Senior Leave of Absence & RTW Specialist, who will work with the Graduate School to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodation and communicate with their faculty.

Accommodation:

All academic accommodations must be registered with City of Hope. Please note that information will be kept strictly confidential. Accommodation may be given for all categories of disabilities.

Examples of Academic Accommodation

- Extended time on exams
- Proctored exams
- Distraction reduced testing environment
- Ability to take breaks during class and exams
- Extensions on assignments
- Assistive technology
- Alternate format for requisite readings
- Use of a calculator

Unreasonable accommodations would include those that impose an undue economic or administrative burden on IMGS or would fundamentally alter the academic program or lower the academic standards of the program.

Holidays and Sick Days

The Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences observes the same seven holidays observed by City of Hope [New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas]. For standard holidays, an Absence Request Form is not required. Additionally, the Graduate School encourages students to take additional days off (e.g., 10 per year) as part of maintaining balance. Seventeen days (including observed holidays) is the amount of time the Graduate School believes is reasonable for students to be absent for non-illness related reasons and still be able to meet the program commitments. In addition, at IMGS, students are provided ten sick days per year. However, given the program commitments, students must receive approval from their mentor before taking time off. To obtain approval, students should:

1. Consult with their mentor.
2. Complete an Absence Request Form and submit the form to the student's mentor, the Graduate School Registrar and the mentor's Business Manager.

Students should contact the Registrar with any questions about attendance or requests for time off.

International Students: Attendance and Traveling

When traveling internationally ensure your I-20 document has been signed by a designated Graduate School official. To maintain their immigration status, international students on F-1 visa must maintain full course of study at all times. International students seeking to take leave or drop below full course of study must first obtain approval from the Graduate School and the International Student and Scholar Office. Requests may be approved for the following reasons (8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i) and (iii)):

1. Initial academic difficulties.
2. A temporary illness or medical condition (with medical documentation from a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or licensed clinical psychologist but not to exceed an aggregate of 12 months); or
3. Need fewer courses than a full course load in their last term to complete the program of study.

Payroll Categories

As a reference point, students are not employees. They may receive stipends or other forms of compensation, and such payments may be processed via City of Hope's payroll system or Accounts Payable department. For the purposes of payroll, graduate students will be separated into a different category with the following title: Graduate Student/Non-Employee

This distinct category will allow the administration to better track required tax withholding for domestic and foreign students and will provide a means to ensure the accuracy of time and effort reporting.

Payroll Method

Graduate Student/Non-Employee

Even though the Graduate Student/Non-Employee is not an "employee," they may receive stipends or compensation via the COH payroll system so that the required tax withholdings can be adequately calculated and tracked.

Graduate students, unlike employees, are exempt from paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and may be exempt from Federal Tax if their country of origin has a tax treaty with the United States. Employees who believe they may qualify for this exemption should complete Form 8233 and W8 and submit to Payroll@coh.org for review and determination. Foreign students, who are exempted initially from Federal Tax obligations, should consult tax laws concerning future tax liabilities.

All employees, regardless of visa type, country, or residency status are subject to California income tax withholding but are not eligible for California SDI (short term disability insurance).

Graduate Student/Non-Employees will receive a W-2 form and will need to file a tax return annually, per Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) guidelines. As part of the onboarding process, students will need to complete a new W-4 and DE 4 form and provide updated home address information by April 1st. W-2 forms will be generated and mailed to your home by January 31st of every year. International Student forms may be a different time consult with Payroll for timing of tax documents.

Paychecks may also include deductions for benefits depending on your benefit selections, if you use your badge in the cafeteria or gift shop or if you donate to employee giving.

Direct Deposit

All graduate students will have the ability to have their payments "direct deposited." Any student wishing to participate in direct deposit must complete a direct deposit form, attach a canceled check, and submit these items to Payroll.

PeopleSoft Access

Graduate Student/Non-Employees are active in PeopleSoft and will be able to log in and access personal information.

Ethical Principles and Practices

Academic Honesty of Students - Academic Integrity Committee Overview

Since the scientific research enterprise is built upon a foundation of trust, unethical student activity, such as fabrication, plagiarism, and cheating, shall be dealt with firmly. The Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) (chaired by the Director of PhD Administration and Admissions) will investigate allegations of improper student behavior, including fabrication, plagiarism and cheating in student's examination, qualifying exam, term paper, report, or dissertation exam. The findings of the Committee will be transmitted to the Dean, and the Dean, in consultation with the Graduate School Leadership, shall determine what, if any, disciplinary action shall be taken. The possible consequences of violations of academic integrity range from a reprimand in the student's file to suspension or dismissal from the program. Appeals should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School.

AIC Jurisdiction

The AIC will fall under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and the Graduate School Leadership. When necessary, the AIC will present updates to the GSO Student Body at GSO meetings, being sure to maintain individual student's anonymity. Also, when necessary, the GSO President will present the recommendations of the AIC to the members of the Graduate School Leadership.

Standing AIC Membership

The AIC will be composed of three voting members. The Director of PhD Administration and Admissions will serve as AIC Chair, organize AIC meetings, delegate responsibilities amongst the other members of the standing AIC, and report to the GSO Student Body at GSO meetings. The President and Secretary of the GSO will serve as members of the Standing AIC.

In addition to the AIC Chair, one voting member will be elected by the committee to serve as the AIC Secretary. The AIC Chair cannot serve as the AIC Secretary. The AIC Secretary will be responsible for taking detailed notes at AIC meetings, compiling written AIC recommendations to the Graduate School Leadership.

The AIC Chair is responsible for compiling an annual report in September that describes the cases investigated by any ad hoc AIC to be submitted to the Graduate School Leadership.

In addition to the three voting members, the current GSO President will serve as a non-voting member and will act as the AIC's liaison with the Graduate School Leadership.

Standing AIC Duties

Recommended Measures to Prevent/Deter Academic Dishonesty

Each year, the AIC will compile a list of recommended measures that will prevent/deter cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty. These recommendations will be submitted to the Graduate School Leadership, and it is the responsibility of the members of the Graduate School Leadership to implement these measures as they deem fit.

The initial list of measures was based on the Student Academic Integrity Survey results obtained in March/April of 2009. This list of recommendations will be revised annually by the newly convened AIC, incorporating new ideas and altering old ideas to best represent the current students' opinions.

Ad Hoc Investigation of Academic Dishonesty/Suggestion for Consequences

The Standing AIC chair will appoint a 3-person ad hoc AIC faculty committee to investigate allegations of academic dishonesty. None of the faculty appointed will have a conflict of interest with the student(s) or faculty concerned. The Standing AIC Chair will oversee the committee proceedings, organize meetings, and report the results to the Graduate School Leadership. The Standing AIC Chair is a non-voting member of the committee. One of the 3 faculty AIC committee members will be selected as ad hoc AIC faculty committee Chair.

The AIC will serve as the first step in enforcing the academic integrity policy of the Graduate School. The ad hoc AIC faculty committee will perform the initial investigations of academic dishonesty allegations. These investigations will include: 1) interviewing the person(s) making the allegation, 2) evaluating the merits of the allegation, 3) interviewing the accused student, 4) interviewing other parties involved in the incident, and 5) compiling the above findings.

Following the investigation of each academic dishonesty allegation, the ad hoc AIC faculty committee will compile a written report of the investigation that concludes with suggestions for the Graduate School Leadership regarding consequences for the student's infringement. The guilt of the individual and the suggested consequences should be voted upon by the AIC, and the results of these votes should be included in the written report. The GSO President will present the report to the Graduate School Leadership, and it will be the responsibility of the members of the Graduate School Leadership to implement the AIC recommendations based on the ruling of the Graduate School Leadership.

Annual Report: Summary of Academic Dishonesty Cases

Each September, the Standing AIC Chair will compile an annual report that summarizes the cases investigated by the ad hoc AIC faculty committee(s) during the previous year's term. This annual report will remove student's names from the cases and refer to the accused students as Student A, Student B, and so on. Each case will be briefly summarized to include: the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, the main findings of the investigation, the ad hoc AIC faculty committee votes, the recommendations of the AIC to the Graduate School Leadership, and the consequences for the accused student.

The report will be submitted to the Dean and distributed to the GSO Student Body following revision by the Graduate School Leadership to ensure that student anonymity is maintained. Investigation notes, reports, and related documentation will be maintained confidentially by the Registrar

Academic Programs Overview

City of Hope's Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences offers rigorous programs of course work and laboratory research culminating in a PhD degree. The goal is to develop professionally trained scientists, prepared for a career in academic, medical, or industrial research. A PhD degree will be conferred upon completion of all the necessary requirements. The time spent in the program will be devoted to full-time study and research, and the number of years dedicated to this pursuit will depend on the student's prior training and the dissertation project chosen. Nonetheless, completion of the PhD requires a minimum of 132 total Credit Units.

Degree Requirements - Required coursework and milestones.

A grade of B- or higher is required to pass all coursework unless the course is graded Pass/Fail. If a student does not pass a class for any reason, the Graduate School Leadership will determine whether the student must repeat the entire class or simply the sections that the student failed. Students who fail a class will have an F on their permanent record, but if they repeat and pass the class the new grade will also be recorded on the transcript, and the failure will not be calculated in the grade point average.

BS-PhD for current students for the 2019-2020 cohort and before

BIOSCI 500 Responsible Conduct of Research

BIOSCI 505 Concepts in Molecular Genetics Laboratory

BIOSCI 520 Principles of Gene Expression

BIOSCI 510 Biochemistry and Structural Biology

BIOSCI 530 Cell Biology

BIOSCI 544 Biostatistics and Computational Biology

BIOSCI 550 Fundamentals of Scientific Research

BIOSCI 565 Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum (2019-2020 cohort only)

BIOSCI 600A Scientific Writing A

BIOSCI 600B Scientific Writing B

BIOSCI 735 Qualifying Exam 1 (2018-2019 cohort and before only)

BIOSCI 745 Qualifying Exam 2 (2018-2019 cohort and before only)

BIOSCI 740 Lab Research (before Qualifying Exam)

BIOSCI 750 Qualifying Exam (2019-2020 cohort only)

BIOSCI 800 Research for Dissertation (after Qualifying Exam or Qualifying Exam 2, 2018-2019 cohort)

BIOSCI 610-699 A total of (3) credit units of Advanced Topics courses

Minimum of two dissertation committee meetings after Qualifying Exam/Qualifying Exam2

BIOSCI 805 Oral Dissertation defense (see Dissertation Requirements and Graduation Checklist for details, which include submitting a final IDP and Exit Interview form)

BS-PhD beginning 2020-2021 cohort

BIOSCI 500 Responsible Conduct of Research, Scientific Rigor, and Reproducibility
BIOSCI 521 Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 1
BIOSCI 522 Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 2
BIOSCI 544 Biostatistics and Computational Biology
BIOSCI 500 Fundamentals of Scientific Research
BIOSCI 565 Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum
BIOSCI 600 Scientific Writing
BIOSCI 740 Lab Research (before Qualifying Exam)
BIOSCI 750 Qualifying Exam
BIOSCI 800 Research for Dissertation (after Qualifying Exam)
BIOSCI 610-699 A total of (3) credit units of Advanced Topics courses
Minimum of two dissertation committee meetings after Qualifying Exam
BIOSCI 805 Oral Dissertation defense (see Dissertation Requirements and Graduation Checklist for details, which include submitting a final IDP and Exit Interview form)

BS-PhD beginning 2024-2025 cohort

BIOSCI 500 Responsible Conduct of Research, Scientific Rigor, and Reproducibility
BIOSCI 504 Introduction to Programming with R
BIOSCI 521 Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 1
BIOSCI 522 Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 2
BIOSCI 544 Biostatistics and Computational Biology
BIOSCI 500 Fundamentals of Scientific Research
BIOSCI 565 Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum
BIOSCI 600 Scientific Writing
BIOSCI 740 Lab Research (before Qualifying Exam)
BIOSCI 750 Qualifying Exam
BIOSCI 800 Research for Dissertation (after Qualifying Exam)
BIOSCI 610-699 A total of (3) credit units of Advanced Topics courses
Minimum of two dissertation committee meetings after Qualifying Exam
BIOSCI 805 Oral Dissertation defense (see Dissertation Requirements and Graduation Checklist for details, which include submitting a final IDP and Exit Interview form)

TM-PhD

Completion of the MSTM degree is a prerequisite.

BIOSCI 500 Responsible Conduct of Research, Scientific Rigor, and Reproducibility

BIOSCI 550 Fundamentals of Scientific Research

BIOSCI 565 Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum

BIOSCI 600 Scientific Writing

BIOSCI 740 Lab Research (before Qualifying Exam)

BIOSCI 750 Qualifying Exam

BIOSCI 800 Research for Dissertation (after Qualifying Exam)

BIOSCI 610-699 A total of (6) credit units of Advanced Topics courses

Minimum of two dissertation committee meetings after Qualifying Exam

BIOSCI 805 Oral Dissertation defense (see Dissertation Requirements and Graduation Checklist for details, which include submitting a final IDP and Exit Interview form)

B. Coursework and documentation that is required to remain in good academic standing, starting the 2021-2022 academic year, for both BS-PhD and TM-PhD students, following completion of FSR (2018-2019 cohort and before) and FSR practicum (beginning 2019-2020 cohort). Although, 1st year BS-PhD students also have an LEL requirement (see syllabus). All of these requirements to remain in good academic standing persist until successful completion of the dissertation defense.

- For Research Courses (BIOSCI 740 and BIOSCI 800), a passing grade for the past trimester, and enrollment in current trimester.
- Committee meetings complete each Fall and Spring Trimester (documented in the BIOSCI 740 and BIOSCI 800 enrollment form).
- Update IDP document and attach it to Fall trimester BIOSCI 740 / BIOSCI 800 enrollment form.
- Passing grade and continual enrollment and participation in Journal Club Course.
- Passing grade and continual enrollment and participation in LEL.

Path to Graduation for PhD BS (Student cohorts starting prior to 2020)

(Note: 2019 PhD BS cohort took FSR Practicum instead of QE1)

	Fall Trimester (September to January)	Spring Trimester (January to June)	Summer Trimester (June to August)	
Year 1	Responsible Conduct of Research	Cell Biology	Fundamentals of Scientific Research	
	Concepts in Molecular Biology and Genetics Lab	Biostatistics and Computational Biology	Rigor and Reproducibility	
	Biochemistry and Structural Biology	Scientific Writing A		Research
	Principles of Gene Expression			
	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4 (Optional)
	Leading-Edge Lecture			
Year 2	Advanced Topics Class			
	Scientific Writing B			Qualifying Exam September 30 th
	Research			
	Journal Club			
	Leading-Edge Lecture			
Year 3	Research			Committee meetings - Fall and Spring Trimester
	Journal Club			
	Leading-Edge Lecture			
Year 4	Research			Committee meetings - Fall and Spring Trimester
	Journal Club			
	Leading-Edge Lecture			
Year 5	Research			Committee meetings - Fall and Spring Trimester
	Journal Club			
	Leading-Edge Lecture			

Path to Graduation for PhD BS (Student cohorts starting at 2020)

	Fall Trimester (September to January)	Spring Trimester (January to June)	Summer Trimester (June to August)		
Year 1	Responsible Conduct of Research, Rigor, and Reproducibility	Biostatistics and Computational Biology	Research		
	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry I	Fundamentals of Scientific Research			
	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry II		Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum		
	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4 (Optional)	
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
	Advanced Topics Class				
Year 2		Scientific Writing			
	Research				
	Journal Club				
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
	Research				
Year 3	Journal Club			Qualifying Exam September 30 th	
	Leading-Edge Lecture			Committee Meetings - Spring Trimester	
	Research				
Year 4	Journal Club			Committee Meetings – Fall and Spring Trimester	
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
	Research				
Year 5	Journal Club			Committee Meetings – Fall and Spring Trimester	
	Research				

Path to Graduation for PhD BS (Student cohorts starting at 2024)

	Fall Trimester (September to January)	Spring Trimester (January to June)	Summer Trimester (June to August)		
Year 1	Responsible Conduct of Research, Rigor, and Reproducibility		Intro to Programming with R	Research	
	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry I		Biostatistics and Computational Biology		
	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry II		Fundamentals of Scientific Research	Fundamentals of Scientific Research Practicum	
	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4 (Optional)	
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
Year 2	Advanced Topics Class				
		Scientific Writing			
	Research				
	Journal Club				
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
Year 3	Research				Qualifying Exam September 30 th
	Journal Club				
	Leading-Edge Lecture				Committee Meetings - Spring Trimester
Year 4	Research				Committee Meetings – Fall and Spring Trimester
	Journal Club				
	Leading-Edge Lecture				
Year 5	Research				Committee Meetings – Fall and Spring Trimester
	Journal Club				

Path to Graduation for PhD TM (Student cohorts starting at 2021)

MSTM Year 1	MSTM Course Requirements					
MSTM Year 2	MSTM Requirements	MSTM Requirements				
MSTM Year 2 Prep. for PhD TM	Fall Trimester (September to January)	Spring Trimester (January to June)		Summer Trimester (June to August)		
		Apply to PhD TM Program	FSR	FSR Practicum	Research	
PhD TM Year 1	Responsible Conduct of Research, Rigor, and Reproducibility					
	Advanced Topics Class				Qualifying Exam May 1	
		Scientific Writing				
	Research					
	Journal Club					
	Leading-Edge Lecture					
PhD TM Year 2	Advanced Topics Class					Committee Meetings – Fall and Spring Trimester
	Research					
	Journal Club					
	Leading-Edge Lecture					
PhD TM Year 3	Research					
	Journal Club					
	Leading-Edge Lecture					

Grading System

Students will receive letter grades for their course work. Students must receive a grade of 80 percent or above (B- or better) in all course work to continue in the program. Non-graded courses receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	
A+	97% - 100%	4.00/4.00	Pass
A	93% - 96%	4.00/4.00	Pass
A-	90% - 92%	3.67/4.00	Pass
B+	87% - 89%	3.33/4.00	Pass
B	83% - 86%	3.00/4.00	Pass
B-	80% - 82%	2.67/4.00	Pass
C+	77% - 79%	2.33/4.00	Fail
C	73% - 76%	2.00/4.00	Fail
C-	70% - 72%	1.67/4.00	Fail
D+	67% - 69%	1.33/4.00	Fail
D	63%-66%	1.00/4.00	Fail
D-	60% - 62%	0.67/4.00	Fail
F	0% - 59%	0.00/4.00	Fail

Grade Change Policy

Evaluating student work and maintaining academic standards are the responsibility of the faculty, and faculty decisions about grades will only be overruled in cases where there is clear evidence of arbitrary and/or inconsistent grading. If a student wishes to challenge a grade, the student should discuss the grade with the course coordinator. If the matter cannot be resolved at this level, the student should make a request to the Dean to appoint a three-person Grade Change Committee, which will include the course coordinator, and two faculty actively involved in teaching and/or curriculum but excluding the Dean or Directors. The Dean will also appoint one member as the Chair (not the course coordinator), who will work to find consensus, but the final decision will be made by committee majority vote. This committee will consider the grading issue separately from any potential consequences of the grade for the student's academic standing, which is covered under a separate policy (see Academic Standards section).

Course Drop Policy

Students may drop a course without any record on their transcript if they notify the registrar and course coordinator within the first third of the course. Students may drop the class any time between then and the final class/assignment, again by notifying the registrar and course coordinator, but will receive an "incomplete" on their transcript. It is not possible to drop the course after the final class or final assignment/test is posted, and students will receive the grade assigned by the coordinator.

Transfer Credit

(Applied to students that are moving with PIs from other institutions)

Transfer credit as defined by Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences includes two distinct situations. Transfer credit for classes taken prior to acceptance into the graduate program will be considered. This includes classes taken while the student was a graduate student. Transfer credit for classes must be approved by the Graduate School Leadership/Curriculum Committee and be recorded on the students' transcript and course syllabus. Students must earn a B- or better to receive course credit.

Credit Hour Policy

Definitions

Trimester: Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope is on a trimester system. Each trimester (Fall, Spring, Summer) is approximately 17 weeks. Once students advance to candidacy, they are expected to perform research for 17 weeks per trimester unless on leave.

Credit Hour: Per WSCUC "Except as provided in 34 CFR 688.8(k) and (l), a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than – (1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."

Classroom hours: class or supervised meeting times for lecture, exams, or classroom discussion.

Non-classroom hours: supervised or non-supervised student work out of classes.

Full Time Credit Hour Policy

All full-time students at Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 10 credits per trimester.

Each course provides the student with 1-5 credits. Each seminar and journal club will provide one credit per trimester of attendance at City of Hope's Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences. Laboratory research should have an equivalent level of effort, with one credit hour being awarded for forty-five hours of research or study.

Course syllabi should clearly indicate the credit hours and expectation of effort of the class. The Curriculum Committee will annually review the application of the policy on credit hours for accuracy and reliability.

Trimester Dates

Fall – September 2nd – January 16th

Spring – January 17th – May 31st

Summer – June 1st – August 31st

Laboratory Rotations (Ph.D. BS students only) and Mentor Selection

Laboratory education is the foundation of the Ph.D. program. The lab rotations enable the student to identify a research topic and mentor. Each first-year PhD BS graduate student is required to select three lab rotations. The purpose of the rotations is (1) to help students find the research area and lab in which they want to conduct their dissertation research, (2) to learn experimental techniques, (3) to expose students to a broad range of intellectual and technical approaches to address current research challenges, and (4) to develop students' skills in public speaking and scientific writing. The rotation mentor should help the student understand how their experiments fit into the overall approach of the laboratory to the biomedical problem under investigation, and the strengths and limits of different techniques. Assessment of the rotation includes a written summary, rotation presentation and faculty evaluation form as detailed in the Laboratory Rotation Syllabus.

For the first rotation, first-year PhD BS students (except DVM) submit a list of their top three choices and the Graduate School Leadership make the final selection. Please send your selections to the Registrar by noon on September 1st. For the second and third rotations, students are free to approach any professor from the Professor-Series Graduate School Faculty Members provided by Grad School Administration. Again, to distribute the students as widely as possible, no professor may take more than one rotation student at the same time without the permission of the Graduate School Leadership.

The IMGS encourages students to select a mentor's lab that is different from where they have previously worked, to ensure that all students receive rigorous training, including developing a research dissertation that is distinct from prior work. Accordingly, students are not permitted to rotate in a lab at City of Hope in which they have previously worked for ≥ 1 yr. Following these three rotations, students may nonetheless select such a mentor, but they must provide assurances that the dissertation research is distinct from prior work. Specifically, for the Qualifying Exam and each committee meeting, the student must provide a written memo that they performed prior research in their mentors lab and provide a one-page statement detailing how their dissertation project is distinct from prior research, including topic focus and techniques, and the committee must approve this statement by mentioning that this "statement on work prior to the PhD program was reviewed and approved" in the Comments section of the rubric form.

PhD BS students (except DVM students) begin their rotations in the middle of September. By June 1st, students must have established a dissertation mentor and submitted their [Mentor Selection Form](#) to the registrar or have selected an optional rotation.. Either dissertation research or the optional rotation will begin after summer break*. Students that choose to perform an optional rotation should find a rotation mentor well in advance of the end of first year curriculum and contact the Registrar to provide a record of this selection and the dates of the rotation. The final deadline for establishing a dissertation mentor is September 1st, or the student may be subject to dismissal.

Guidelines for Writing and Defending a Doctoral Dissertation

Principles Underlying the Ph.D. Degree

The PhD degree is awarded by the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences to a candidate who has made a significant, original contribution to scientific knowledge by the submission of a satisfactory dissertation. All other requirements, such as course work, examinations, and rotations, must be completed prior to the awarding of the degree. With rare exceptions, the dissertation research will have been conducted at City of Hope after enrollment in the graduate program.

The writing of the dissertation should prove that the candidate can conduct research, think analytically, and critically relate their research to that of others in their field. The dissertation is an account of the candidate's own research. If parts of the dissertation are the result of team-based research, the candidate should indicate the nature and degree of collaboration involved.

Though the candidate works under the supervision of their mentor, the doctoral dissertation demonstrates the candidate's intellectual independence. By granting a PhD degree, Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope certifies that the candidate is sufficiently an expert in the techniques of research as to be able, without further supervision, to apply these techniques to other research projects. They must be sufficiently familiar with their area of investigation to be able to conceive of original ideas for further research.

The significance of the dissertation may be measured in different ways. The research should be timely relative to current research. The research should be of publishable quality, having either already been accepted for publication in recognized referred research journals or at least having, in the opinion of the Dissertation Committee members, the potential for publication.

The originality of the dissertation has several aspects. The candidate may have confronted a new question or have taken a novel approach to an existing question. The dissertation may investigate previously ignored material or apply new techniques.

The dissertation must be written in English, at a professional level of expression and presentation.

Written Dissertation Requirements (content)

A. The student must independently write a section titled “Introduction to Dissertation Research,” or something similar. The goal of this section is to provide background and context for the research described in the dissertation. The learning objective for writing this section is that the student gains experience in synthesizing a cohesive summary of a set of research findings (in this case, the overall findings of the dissertation). This section can either be an independent Preface, or as a section of Chapter 1, which is the Introduction chapter. This section will be written entirely by the students, but of course they can seek feedback on their drafts. Accordingly, a published review article, even if the student is a first author, is not an appropriate substitute for this section. However, such an article may be used as part of Chapter 1, if it is adapted/expanded by the student to include this specific section on the dissertation.

B. The chapters following the Introduction should have the typical sections of a published research article, with flexibility on the precise format. Nevertheless, figures should not be placed together at the end of the chapter but rather must be interspersed in the chapter when they are first mentioned. Figures should be labeled with the chapter number, followed by the figure number (e.g., Figure 2-1, 2-2, or 2.1, 2.2, etc.). The figure should fit onto one page, followed by pages for the figure legend, which are separated from the main text.

C. If a chapter is composed of a manuscript that is published or submitted for publication, the student may use the manuscript text as the basis for the chapter, but needs to add the following sections:

Publication reference. If the manuscript has been published and/or deposited on a pre-print server, the reference should be included. Often the entire paper is included but it is up to the discretion of the student and the dissertation committee. For example, the paper may be edited to focus on their contributions, in which case this section should state: “This chapter represents parts of the following publication:”

Significance to Dissertation. The student must independently write a summary of the significance of the publication, and how it contributes to the overall goals of the entire dissertation. This section should be included in all such chapters, even for unpublished data. The learning objective of writing this section is similar to that of point (A).

Contributions of others. The student should clearly state the contributions of others in the chapter, listing their names, the figure panels, and the contribution. This information should be included in all such chapters, even for unpublished data. The format of this information is at the discretion of the student and dissertation committee. As examples, this information can be consolidated into one text section at the beginning or end of the chapter or could be included in each figure legend. The learning objective of including this information is training in the appropriate assessment of scientific contributions and in transparency.

It is considered best practice for all illustrations and figures to be created by the student. Additionally, any diagrams, illustrations, or figures included in the dissertation must be accompanied by appropriate permissions. For guidance on obtaining licensing approvals, please contact Andrea Lynch, MLIS, Scholarly Communication Librarian.

D. The dissertation should conclude with a short chapter, written by the student, on possible future directions for the research. The learning objective of writing this section is similar to that of point (A).

E. Methods can be consolidated as a separate chapter, or may be included in the individual chapters, and is at the discretion of the student and committee.

Format

Inclusion of Previously Published Material

If inclusion of previously published, co-authored material is used, the published material must be incorporated into a larger discussion that binds together the whole dissertation. The common thread linking various parts of the research, represented by individual papers, should be made explicit, and you should join the papers into a coherent unit. You are required to prepare introductory, transitional, and concluding sections. As a matter of courtesy, you should give credit to the publisher.

Use of copyrighted works in your dissertation without securing permission and without paying royalties is permissible when the circumstances amount to what the law calls "fair use," that is, when the following factors are weighed: the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes; the nature of the copyrighted work; the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and the effect of the use upon the potential market or value of the copyrighted work.

A statement from the copyright owner giving you permission to use the material must be submitted with the dissertation. This permission letter must state that the copyright owner is aware that ProQuest/UMI may supply single copies upon request and may proceed under the contract on the agreement form.

Margins

For binding purposes and later ease in copying, every page of the dissertation needs to maintain the following margins: Top: 1 inch; Right: 1 inch; Bottom: 1 inch; Left: 1 1/2 inches (Binding edge).

All manuscript material must fit within these margin requirements (including tables, headers and footers, figures, and graphs). The page number can be positioned outside of these margins, but no less than 3/4 inch from the paper edge. When full-page prints of photographs are desired, the image area of the print must conform to the same margins as the text.

Spacing

The dissertation must be double-spaced on one side of the page. Footnotes, bibliographic entries, long quoted passages, and items in lists, tables, and appendices may be single-spaced.

Pagination

Each page of the entire manuscript must be numbered, except where stated below in the upper right corner or the bottom center of the page, no less than 3/4 inch from the edge of the page. The placement of page numbers should be consistent throughout the manuscript. Pages should be counted or numbered sequentially throughout as follows:

1. The title page is not numbered, although it is counted as "i" in the pagination
2. The approval page is not numbered, although it is counted as "ii" in the pagination
3. The copyright page, if included, is not counted, or numbered
4. The abstract is numbered in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.). It has separate pagination from the remainder of the manuscript
5. The remaining preliminary pages are numbered with lower case Roman numerals (iii, iv, v, etc.)
Begin numbering the preliminary pages with "iii." Preliminary pages may include dedications, tables of contents, lists of figures, tables, symbols, illustrations, or photographs, prefaces, introductions, acknowledgments, and vitae, if included in the manuscript
6. The main body of the text is numbered with Arabic numerals beginning with page "1" and continuing throughout, including text, illustrative materials, bibliography, and appendices

Figures and Tables

Figures, tables, and images must be clear and legible. If necessary, print figures on photo-quality paper to enhance their clarity.

Number of Copies

An original and three copies of your doctoral dissertation on approved paper must be submitted to the Graduate School Office. One copy is for the Lee Graff Medical and Scientific Library. One copy is for the Graduate School, one copy is for the student, and one for the mentor. The COH (City of Hope) print shop can print your copies. For the printing you will need to purchase the paper as described below and deliver it to the flash building. Submit a request for the number of copies you need by emailing printshop@coh.org. Make sure you specify one sided, in color and do not bind. It usually takes a day or two then they will email for pick up.

Once you deliver the copies to the Graduate School they will be mailed out for binding. If you want additional bound copies deliver the extra printed copies with a check for \$35 each copy made payable to the City of Hope.

An electronic copy must be submitted via ProQuest.

Paper

All copies of the dissertation must be on approved white bond paper, 20 lb. weight, 25 % Cotton Fiber.

Typeface

Any legible typeface, except script, italic, or ornamental fonts, is acceptable for the body of the text. The chosen typeface should be used consistently throughout the manuscript. Italics may be used appropriately. Type used for appendices, charts, drawings, graphs, and tables may differ from that used for the text. The recommended font size for text is twelve.

Manuscript Arrangement

The manuscript should be arranged in the following sequence:

Preliminary Pages:

1. Title Page
2. Approval Page
3. Copyright Page or a blank page
4. Abstract
5. Dedication Page (optional)
6. Table of Contents
7. List of Figures, List of Tables. List of Symbols (if applicable)
8. Preface or Introduction (if any)
9. Acknowledgments (optional)
10. CV (optional)

Text:

Text, divided into chapters or sections

Reference Section:

1. References or Bibliography
2. Appendices (if any)
3. Addenda (if applicable)

Title Page, Approval Page, and Abstract

Title Page

1. Indicate full title.
2. The name that appears on your dissertation must be your name exactly as it is recorded with the Graduate School Office. You must include your full middle name, not just an initial, if that is the name under which you are registered.
3. Show the exact degree you are receiving, i.e., Doctor of Philosophy. Do not use abbreviations.

4. The committee must be approved by the Graduate School Leadership. If it has been changed at any time you must be sure the revised committee has been approved.

5. The trimester and year listed should be the trimester in which your degree will be conferred.

Approval Page

Your committee members must sign the approval page, indicating the final approval of your manuscript. Approval pages are produced by the Graduate School and will be sent electronically or if your defense is in person they can be picked up by the student prior to the defense. After the defense, the approval pages will remain in the Graduate School Office until the dissertation is completed.

Abstract

Your abstract should be prepared carefully because it will be published exactly as you submit it. Be sure symbols, as well as foreign words and phrases, are printed clearly and accurately. Please do not include graphs, charts, tables, or illustrations in your abstract. The abstract should conform to the same requirements regarding spacing and margins as the main body of the work. The body of the text of the abstract should not exceed 2 pages in length.

Acceptability of Dissertation

If all members of your committee approve the dissertation, they sign the approval signature page. You then file four copies of the dissertation in the Graduate School following the requirements in these instructions. If any member of your committee doubts the acceptability of the dissertation, the committee chair convenes the committee to discuss it. If one or more members of the committee feel unable to pass you, you will have to revise your work to meet the member(s) objection. If the objections are arbitrary or impossible to meet, you have the right to create a new dissertation committee, with approval of the Graduate School Leadership. If the committee reaches agreement on its acceptability, the dissertation is signed and filed. If the committee continues to disagree, the dissertation is sent to the Dean of the Graduate School with a brief statement of each committee member's opinion. If all members of the committee reject the dissertation, it is sent to the Dean with a statement to that effect by the committee chair. In all cases of rejection or split vote, the Graduate School Leadership of the Graduate School makes the final decision.

Title Page Sample

Title: Centered, Capital Letters and Lower-Case, 16 Point

Dissertation by

Your Name As It Appears In School Records

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree

of Doctor of Philosophy

Committee Members:

Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope

Duarte, California

Trimester, Year

Table of Figures Sample:

Use Table Format to Separate Sections in the Table of Contents

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Electronic Dissertation Submission to ProQuest

Your dissertation will also be entered into a national database of dissertations. You will submit this electronic copy via ProQuest.

1. Create a PDF file of your dissertation.
2. Go to <http://www.etsadmin.com/cityofhope> to access the ProQuest/UMI electronic dissertation system.
3. In the upper right-hand corner of the page, choose Student: Submit.
4. The first time you use the system, choose Create an account to choose your own username and password.
5. Once you are logged in you will see the list of submission steps - work through each of the steps using the guide below.
6. Submit your dissertation to the system as the last step in the process. The Graduate School will be notified and will check to make sure all requirements have been met.

Publishing Options

Your doctoral dissertation is a published work that announces the results of your research. The Graduate School holds to the tradition that you have an obligation to make your research available to other scholars. This obligation is met when the Graduate School submits your dissertation to the Lee Graff Medical and Scientific Library to be bound and shelved for public use.

Type of Publishing

The Graduate School will pay for Traditional Publishing. If you would like to make your work freely available to anyone on the internet, you may choose to upgrade to the Open Access option and pay the difference.

Publishing Restrictions

If you plan to publish articles based on the content in your dissertation (or if your dissertation contains commercial intellectual property) you may wish to delay the release of your dissertation online until a later date. You may choose to delay release for 6 months, 1 year, or 2 years.

Check the No third party search engine access button if you do not want Google and other search engines to display your dissertation abstract when users search for keywords that match your dissertation topic.

Dissertation Details

Mentor/Committee Chair

Enter both the name of your mentor and committee chair.

Committee Members

Include the names of the rest of the individuals listed on your dissertation signature page.

Description of Dissertation

Choose up to three of the best match subject categories. Add additional keywords that will help searchers find your dissertation. Copy and paste the abstract into the form.

PDF

Upload a PDF version of your dissertation. The online system includes a PDF conversion tool, but it is not an easy tool to use. Contact the City of Hope help desk if you need assistance creating a PDF file.

Supplemental Files

If you have additional images, data sets, charts, graphs, code, or other content that supplements your dissertation, you may upload the files and link them to your dissertation.

Notes

If you have comments to send to the system administrator (Graduate School staff) related to your submission, please include them here.

Register US Copyright

By default, every creative work produced is covered by US Copyright. However, if you ever need to defend your copyright in court, official registration in the copyright office will be necessary. If you wish to file for copyright, you may pay ProQuest/UMI \$65 to register on your behalf. You may also register directly with the copyright office online for only \$35. Go to <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/> to file with the Electronic Copyright Office (eCO).

Order Copies

ProQuest/UMI will sell you additional bound copies of your dissertation now or any time in the future. However, check with the Graduate School if you would like to order copies for yourself now. Their binding is better and less expensive than the ProQuest/UMI options.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. Scientific Rationale

Outcome: Mastery in describing the significance, innovation, and state of the field of a scientific study to the particular field of biomedicine and to human health.

2. Rigorous Experimentation

Mastery in describing how experimental design elements ensure rigor of the study, including choice of method(s) and technical details, statistical approaches, and controls.

3. Research Plan

For programs involving research, an advanced capacity to plan and generate original research findings that advance scientific knowledge in biomedicine; including the ability to troubleshoot experimental challenges; compile, analyze, and interpret data; and effectively document and describe research findings.

4. Ethical Practices

To describe and practice responsible research conduct.

5. Professional Skills and Career Development

To gain core competency in professional skills of an independent scientist: oral communications/presentations, preparation of written documents, collaboration, construction of data figures/tables, and networking.

The Leading-Edge Lectures

Description: The Leading-Edge Lectures (LEL) which includes Ohno, Rossi, Shively, and Riggs lectures are sponsored by the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences Graduate School and organized by the graduate students. Each year the students select outstanding biomedical scientists to present a research seminar. Before each talk, the students and the faculty administrator will meet for a presentation and discussion session (the pre-LEL). Here, the student sponsor will summarize one or two of the most relevant articles by the invited scientist and lead a discussion of the techniques and data with the other students. Students will then attend the seminar, lead the question, and answer session that follows.

Objectives: The best and most current scientific information is most often obtained from seminars. However, presenters often omit important information in the interest of brevity or fail to discuss interesting implications. In these circumstances it is the obligation of the seminar audience to bring these issues forward in the form of questions to the speaker. Primed with the proper questions, the period following a seminar can be where the speaker's best thinking on the subject is revealed. Asking questions of the caliber that will compel the speaker to reveal such information after the lecture requires that the attending scientists possess the capacity to rapidly assimilate information during the lecture. Since familiarity with a subject greatly improves this capacity, the summary and discussion session that precedes the lecture should greatly facilitate the students' participation in the post-seminar questioning.

Student Sponsorship: All 3rd year PhD-BS and 2nd year PhD-TM students are required to submit their speaker nominations in the fall. Such nominations can be submitted through Canvas by an individual student or a team of two collaborating students. The faculty LEL coordinator will collect the nominations and arrange for all enrolled students to vote on them in a rank-voting scheme. The highest-ranking nominees will be invited by the student sponsor with help of a hosting committee and IMGS administrative support. The sponsor will summarize the relevant papers at the pre-LEL meeting, lead the discussion, introduce the speaker before the seminar, and lead the question-and-answer session.

- Grading/Attendance: Complete the Leading-Edge Lecture requirements, which includes both Pre-LEL and Lectures (See LEL Syllabus).

Hosting Committee Members: will assist the sponsor to prepare the pre-LEL lecture. For that, the sponsor shall assign their hosting committee members to read, review, and summarize papers and scientific works, and to suggest content for the sponsor's pre-LEL presentation. Hosting committee members will review all student questions and select the top 15 questions and record their originators in Canvas. Duplicate or similar questions can be edited and combined by the committee. Committee members can earn extra points (Table 1) when the pre-LEL was successful and receives a 4 or higher on the pre-LEL evaluation form. Committee members and sponsors can be 2nd year or more senior students but cannot be first year PhD-Biological Science (BS) students. The committee will record which students asked questions during the LEL. A student should serve at least once on the hosting committee or serve as a sponsor during his/her tenure.

Timing: Pre-LEL and LEL seminars cannot be scheduled on Graduate School Admissions Days or during other courses.

Journal Club Seminars

Every student after the first year is required to participate in a journal club, where members take turns presenting a current research article to the group. General format is one hour for a seminar and discussion. It is a required course, graded pass (P) or Fail (F), and the specific requirements are detailed in the course syllabus.

Available Journal Clubs (All 3 Units – 1 per trimester)

Comparative Medicine

Coordinator: Richard Ermel, DVM, PhD

Computational and Theoretical Biology

Sergio Branciamore, PhD & Andrei S. Rodin, PhD, & Russel Rockne, PhD

Diabetes and Dysfunctional Metabolism

Coordinator: Qiong Wang, PhD & Rupangi Vasavada, PhD

DNA Repair

Coordinator: Jeremy Stark, PhD

Epigenetics and Chromatin Structure

Coordinator: Zhen Chen, PhD

Immunology

Coordinator: Zuoming Sun, PhD

RNA

Coordinator: Mark Boldin, MD, PhD

The Intimate Link between Cancer and Metabolism

Coordinator: David Ann, PhD and Ke Ma, MD, PhD

Stem Cells, Development, and Regenerative Medicine

Coordinator: Hsun Theresa Ku, PhD

Structural and Chemical Biology

Coordinator: John C. Williams, PhD

T Cell Immunotherapeutics

Coordinator: Marissa Del Real, PhD

Qualifying Examination

The Qualifying examination identifies students who are PhD candidates based on their performance. Thus, this examination is a point at which the student and/or the Qualifying Examination Committee can evaluate the suitability of a student to continue in the program.

Qualifying Exam: Dissertation Proposal

Qualifying Exam Purpose

To test rigorously student capacities to:

- Survey the literature and identify knowledge gaps in the dissertation research area.
- Establish an initial plan for dissertation research.
- Formulate a hypothesis and choose experimental models.
- Evaluate approaches and design experiments to test the hypothesis with preliminary data.
- Discuss potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.
- Demonstrate a capacity to address the dissertation research area in writing, presentation, and responses to questions.

Qualifying Exam Policy

- The Qualifying Examination (QE) is generally completed during the summer trimester at the end of the 2nd academic year for PhD BS, and the final report is due to the Registrar by September 30th of the 3rd academic year. The PhD TM qualifying exam is completed during the summer trimester of the 1st year and the final report is due to the Registrar by September 30th of the 2nd academic year.
 - All students must successfully complete the core curriculum prior to taking the QE. For students who take additional time to finish the first-year core curriculum, the deadline to complete QE is extended by 6 months from the completion of the last first-year courses.
- The QE Committee composition:
 - The QE Committee is composed of the thesis mentor and at least 3 other Graduate School Faculty members, one of whom will be identified as Chair. Additional voting or non-voting members may be added, when necessary, from the ranks of Research Professor or Clinical Professor series researchers. **The proposed makeup of the student QE committee is due to the Registrar by email by July 31st of the second academic year for PhD BS and February 1st of the first academic year for PhD TM, to ensure that the committee makeup meets policy (i.e., that you have a quorum of faculty that are actively part of the Graduate School Faculty, and that you have selected a Chair).**

- The student must write a proposal on the dissertation topic and defend it by presenting a private seminar to the QE Committee and responding to relevant questions. The written proposal is due to the committee no later than **2 weeks prior to the scheduled oral presentation**. If this deadline is not met, or the written proposal is not considered adequate for oral presentation, any member of the committee can require that the oral presentation be rescheduled for a later date, even if this causes the student to miss their QE deadline. Should this occur, students must contact the Registrar to inform the school of the situation. Finally, an oral presentation cannot commence without a complete and adequate written proposal submitted to the committee.
- The QE requirement will be considered fulfilled only if a majority of voting members QE Committee agrees in writing on the quality of the written proposal and the oral defense. This feedback is provided using the QE evaluation form, which is submitted to the Registrar. Students must request the QE Committee Form via the link https://beckmanresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cikKpzJLF3V0JMy
- Students are strongly encouraged to use the QE Research Proposal as an opportunity to construct a graduate fellowship proposal.

Written QE Proposal Guidelines

- Students are encouraged to seek advice or comments from their Mentor, other QE Committee members, other faculty members, and/or researchers, but work as independently as possible on the written proposal.
- The format for the proposal follows that of [NIH Pre-Doctoral Fellowships](#) for the
 - Title
 - Research Summary (30 lines)
 - Specific Aims (1 page)
 - Research Strategy (6 pages)
 - Literature cited
 - 0.5" margins on all sides.

Written QE Proposal Submitted or to be Submitted to an Outside Funding Organization

Students are encouraged to submit original research proposals to outside organizations to obtain funds that would also support their dissertation research. To use those proposals for the QE Proposal, students shall obtain permission from the QE Committee.

- NIH Pre-Doctoral Fellowship format is acceptable for the QE without modification.
- Other Agencies: If the agency is not the National Institutes of Health Pre-doctoral Fellowship program, students must submit the outlines of the requirements of the proposed funding agency to the Dissertation Mentor and the QE Committee.
 - For other organizations, the requirements of the proposal can differ, and students are required to adhere to the formats required by the funding organization.

- Equivalency: The decision of equivalency must be a unanimous decision made by the QE Committee prior to preparing the QE document. If the QE Committee decides that the outside organization requires sections or equivalent sections to those of the NIH Predoctoral Fellowship, there is no need for the student to submit separate documents.
- Outside proposals must be submitted to the Graduate School Registrar as a PDF document.

Oral Defense

- A private, formal, professional seminar presentation of 40-50 minutes that describes the ideas of the written proposal.
- An examination period during which the QE Committee asks questions relevant to the proposal and to core curriculum if deemed necessary.
- The QE Committee will vote concerning the student's performance of QE and will include the written proposal and the oral defense in the decision.
- There are three possible decisions for the QE at the oral defense:

(1) "Pass": the QE Committee recognizes the proficiency of the student in the written, oral, and questioning parts of the examination. The committee can "Pass" with also requesting Minor Revisions, which refers to revisions that do not need to be reviewed by the committee. "Pass" permits the student to advance to Doctoral Candidacy, once the steps below in "Final Outcome of the Qualifying Exam" are complete.

(2) "Revisions": The QE Committee requires text changes that can be completed within two weeks and reviewed and approved by the Chair. This interim QE evaluation form will be submitted to the Registrar. Upon successful completion of the revisions, the Chair will email the Registrar and copy the student indicating the student has "Passed."

(3) "Fail": The QE Committee has judged that the student did not adequately complete the requirements of the QE. Note that students are allowed to take the exam twice.

Final Outcome of Qualifying Exam

Following the determination of the final outcome, the QE Committee Chair submits a single final report to the student using the QE evaluation form. The student needs to review the report, then sign the report, and submit it to the Registrar along with their QE written document. The possible final outcomes for QE are "Pass" and "Fail" as described above.

Plagiarism

For the Qualifying Examination, students are warned that submitted documents are subject to review by electronic methods to scan for potential plagiarism. Significant instances of plagiarism brought to the attention of the Graduate School Leadership can be referred to the Academic Integrity Committee. Any procedures that are required by such action should be strictly adhered to by all involved parties.

Aids for the Written Proposal

Sections on Significance and Innovation are available on the NIH web site.

Another helpful source of information from which some of this is derived is the “The Grant Application Writer’s Workbook” by Stephen W. Russell and David C. Morrison.

These sections must be included and an organization for the Research Strategy section is suggested:

Specific Aims (Limited to 1 page). Detail a rationale for studying the problem that has been identified and present an introduction to the problem. Briefly, use the rationale to set up the reasons to test the hypothesis. Identify the gap in the knowledge to be investigated. Clearly state the **central hypothesis** that will be tested. List the broad, long-term objectives and what the proposed research is intended to accomplish. Testable sub-hypotheses must be stated for each aim. Concisely describe what the experiments in the aims are expected to show.

Significance. (~0.5-1 page) State the significance of your proposal. Why is doing the work important? In any proposal, this is one of the most critical elements.

Innovation. (~0.5 page) State the novel aspects of the proposal (new vectors, new approaches, change in methodology, etc.). Innovation is considered an integral part of new grant applications.

Research Strategy (~5 pages). Generally, to complete the research in 2-3 years, there should not be more than 2 aims. The outline for each specific aim in the Research Strategy section is as follows:

Specific Aim (restate the specific aim from the Specific Aim section [use copy-paste])

- 1.1 Rationale and Feasibility- Provide a brief background that includes a rationale for the experiments and the sub-hypothesis of the aim. Preliminary data from the literature that support the hypotheses must be discussed. Proper references to the literature are required. The gaps in the knowledge must be identified for the experiments suggested. The experiments suggested must test the sub-hypothesis and contribute to testing the central hypothesis.
- 1.2 Research Design- Describe experiments that will be performed and the procedures to be used to accomplish only this specific aim. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies.
- 1.3 Expected Results- Summarize the results anticipated from the described experiments and how those results support the aim. Do not use “fabricated data” to describe expected results. Although this is a good visual aid during presentations, including “fabricated data” is to be avoided in written proposals.

1.4 Alternative Outcomes/Approaches- Discuss the major potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and other viable means that could be used to achieve the aims if the original experiments are unsuccessful.

Figures and Tables. All Figures and Tables must be clear with legible labels and captions. Moreover, all Figures and Tables must be referred to in the text. If these are taken from references, they must be properly cited. The Figures and Tables should appear in the text immediately following their appearance and **not** at the end of the document.

Literature Cited. List all references. The in-text format for references is not specified, but in the literature cited section, each reference must include the title, complete list of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The references should be limited to relevant and current literature. While there is no page limitation, it is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research. It is suggested that the number of references not exceed 100. A reference program such as EndNote or Reference Manager is highly recommended for this purpose.

Find the Qualifying Exam Evaluation form here: ([Graduate School Intranet - Find in Graduate Student Documents](#))

Dissertation Requirements

Dissertation Committee Meetings

Each trimester, students receive a pass or fail grade on their transcript for their dissertation research. **To receive a grade of pass, a student must make progress on their dissertation research and hold a dissertation committee meeting each Fall and Spring Trimester.** The first dissertation committee meeting after the QE must be held by the end of the Spring Trimester of the third year for PhD BS and the end of the Fall Trimester of the second year for PhD TM students. Failure to hold this meeting by the end of the Trimester deadline will result in an Incomplete on the transcript. If action has not been taken to remove the Incomplete four weeks from the end of the Trimester deadline, the Incomplete will turn into an F on the transcript. If needed, the student or mentor can summon a committee meeting at any time to address the concern(s) from student or mentor.

The Dissertation Committee is based upon the QE Committee but may change over time. For example, the committee membership may be reconstituted whenever the student's dissertation topic is significantly modified. Committee vacancies will be filled promptly, and, in all cases, prior to the next meeting following a member's resignation or reassignment. Any such changes to the Dissertation Committee, relative to the QE committee, should be submitted in writing to the Registrar, along with a brief rationale for the change, prior to scheduling any Dissertation Committee Meetings. Such changes will generally be reviewed by the Graduate School Leadership.

As with the QE committee, the Dissertation Committee is composed of at least three Graduate School Faculty members, one of whom will be identified as Chair. The Committee is chaired by a member other than the student's research mentor or co-mentor. Additional voting or non-voting members may be added, when necessary, from the ranks of Research Professor or Clinical Professor series researchers.

These voting members will be chosen jointly by the student and their research mentor. They should be familiar with the research area that encompasses the student's dissertation project. In addition, the student's research mentor will participate as a non-voting member. They will serve primarily as a mentor to the Committee and to facilitate discussion.

The student is expected to initiate meetings which will be scheduled jointly by the student and their mentor after consultation with the committee chairperson. The Committee may schedule more frequent meetings with the student whenever a review indicates that the student's progress may benefit from such additional consultation (the required timing of the meeting is detailed below).

The student must request the dissertation committee form using the link https://beckmanresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2n4dP51K2SDfHkG

One week prior to each meeting, the student will provide each committee member with:

1. A two- page progress report on the work that has been conducted since the last meeting and the material that will be discussed during the meeting. The focus should be on experiments related to the specific aims. The suitability of the experiments to address the hypothesis should be discussed.
2. An updated bio sketch or curriculum vitae.

After each meeting, the Dissertation Committee must prepare a concise evaluation of the student's progress and any recommendations for adjustments in the research program. The report will be signed by all members and submitted to the Registrar via DocuSign. Any conflicts between the student, the student's mentor, and the voting members of the Dissertation Committee will be resolved by the Graduate School Leadership. Any of these principals may petition the Graduate School Leadership for a review when an excessive delay in or acceleration of the preparation or evaluation of a dissertation is encountered.

Students must hold at least two dissertation committee meetings (in addition to the QE exam) before considering an oral defense. The student must obtain approval from the dissertation committee to start working on the process of oral defense. The student may obtain the approval either at their last committee meeting or after discussing with all committee members via email (see below section on Dissertation Exam Committee).

Committee meetings are an important part of progressing toward a PhD. The scheduling of committee meetings is:

1. The first dissertation committee meeting after the QE must be held by the end of the Spring Trimester of the third year for PhD BS and the end of the Fall Trimester of the second year for PhD TM students.
2. In following years, a committee meeting is due every Fall and Spring trimester.
3. Students are required to prepare a 30-minute, concise, speaking presentation on their progress at each meeting.
4. The research course grade/registration form will include a section where students must include the date of their last committee meeting and attach the committee meeting report to the form as one PDF that is uploaded to Canvas.

Dissertation Oral Defense Committee

The Dissertation Oral Defense Committee is composed of the members of the student's Dissertation Committee augmented with a qualified investigator from another academic/research institution who is knowledgeable in the student's area of research. The student and their mentor will discuss the selection of the outside member. Then, in consultation with the student's research mentor, the student's Dissertation Oral Defense Committee will approve the external member. The outside member should be determined at least two months before the dissertation defense. At its discretion, the Graduate School Leadership may augment the committee with additional City of Hope or external members. The Dissertation Oral Defense Committee will be chaired by one of the City of Hope faculty voting members who served on the Dissertation Committee.

The Dissertation Oral Defense Committee is appointed as described above when the Graduate School Office is notified that the student, the student's mentor, and the Dissertation Committee have agreed that the student has accumulated sufficient research findings to prepare a defensible dissertation.

Each member of the Committee is expected to review the dissertation and attend a public seminar in which the degree candidate presents the dissertation research findings. Immediately thereafter, the Committee will meet privately with the student to review any aspect of the dissertation including the research methodology, findings, and conclusions. The committee meeting cannot be scheduled on Graduate School Interview Days, therefore avoid all Fridays in February.

Approval of the dissertation requires the dated signature of all members of the Dissertation Oral Defense Committee on the Oral Defense Report (request Oral Defense Committee Form via https://beckmanresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2n4dP51K2SDfHkG)

Committee members who decline to approve the dissertation must submit individual statements explaining their decision. If one or more members of the committee feel unable to pass the student, the student will have to revise their work to meet the member(s) objection. If the objections are seemingly arbitrary or impossible to meet, the student has the right to create a new dissertation committee, with approval of the Graduate School Leadership. If a committee unanimously agrees that a dissertation is unacceptable, a single statement signed by all members will suffice. The signed dissertation or dissenting statement should be submitted promptly to the Registrar.

Please note that there are key timing deadlines for completing the written dissertation prior to the defense, which are detailed in the Graduation Checklist, particularly in Footnotes 1 and 2. No exceptions will be given for these deadlines and so review them carefully.

External Committee Member

Outside committee members do not receive an honorarium for their service. Their travel expenses will be paid by the Graduate School, with the understanding that they will usually come from Southern California universities and institutes. Permission to invite an outside committee member from beyond Southern California must be obtained from the Dean of the Graduate School. Expenses will be paid up to \$500, additional expenses are to be covered by the student mentor.

Graduation Guidelines Checklist

The [Graduation Guidelines Checklist](#) must be completed by the student and emailed to the Registrar before the degree will be conferred. Note that the checklist includes specific requirements for pre-approval of the written dissertation by the committee at least two weeks prior to the oral defense (see checklist for details).

Graduate Student Travel Grant

The Graduate School encourages **second-year PhD graduate students and beyond** to attend national and international scientific meetings. Students planning to attend meetings are expected to apply to the meeting organizers for student assistance funds. In addition, as funding permits, the school will grant up to \$2,000 of support to graduate students who wish to present their work at scientific meetings to offset the costs of registration, travel, lodging, and food. Students will be reimbursed for expenses after submitting their receipts to their departmental business manager. To qualify, students must be in good academic standing and present their research at the conference.

Students must apply before the meeting. [Travel Grant Applications](#) should be submitted to the Registrar by these Deadlines:

- January 1st, for conferences that will be held in March, April, May, June, and July
- May 1st, for conferences that will be held in July, August, September, October, and November
- September 1st, for conferences that will be held in November, December, January, February, and March

The application must follow the [Graduate Student Travel Grant Program Overview](#).

Graduate Student Entitlement

Each student has the possibility once during their graduate career to attend one workshop or course with the Graduate School funding \$1,000. This is not a competitive award, and the number of such awards is limited during the academic year. [Graduate Student Entitlement applications](#) consists of a brief one-paragraph statement of the applicability to the student's career plan should be submitted to the Registrar at least 3 months prior to the workshop or course. A decision will be made by the Deans and the Director of Admissions and Administration will be based on applicability and the availability of funds.

Individual Development Plan

The Individual Development Plan (IDP) program has been developed to assist graduate students in preparing for their scientific careers. It involves an annual process where the student engages in self-examination, preparation, or modification of the IDP document, review of the document with the PhD mentor, and submission of the document to the Graduate School. There is also an optional meeting with the Career Advisor should you want to discuss your progress and career plans. To schedule these meetings, reach out to the Graduate School office.

The IDP document will have the additional important purpose of providing the Graduate School with critical data regarding student progress and achievement. Such data is integral to ongoing program improvement, accreditation activities, and reporting to funding agencies. The data will be collected from the Performance Record component of the annual IDP documents of each student. The Graduate School will request submission of the IDP document, including the Performance Record to be submitted at the end of summer with the fall trimester enrollment form (740/800) along with a final IDP following the oral defense dissertation. On time submission of a complete Performance Record will be required.

Graduate School Fellowships

As funding permits there are a number of fellowships which the Graduate School offers to eligible PhD students. Students must be of good academic standing to be considered for fellowships. If a student already has a fellowship, they are not eligible to apply or receive the Graduate School fellowships until their current fellowship ends. The fellowships cover the year they are applied for and/or awarded and cannot be deferred.

The Held Foundation

This one-year fellowship will be awarded to a second-year student who is pursuing research in hematologic cancer. To be eligible to apply, a graduate student must be in good academic standing. This fellowship is awarded by a faculty committee comprised of faculty who do not have students involved in the competition. This award is given annually.

RMNJ Family Foundation Scholarship

This one-year scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding student in their third year or above. covers one student stipend for a portion of a year depending on funding. The application process is managed by the Assessment committee once the competition opens. The awardees will be determined by a faculty committee comprised of faculty who do not have students involved in the competition. This award is given annually.

Dr. Norman and Melinda Payson Fellowship

This one-year fellowship covers one student stipend for a year depending on funding. To be eligible to apply, a graduate student must be in their fourth year (PhD BS) or third year (PhD TM) and must have applied for an external pre-doctoral fellowship or major award within the last two years. The application process is managed by the Assessment committee once the competition opens. The awardees will be determined by a faculty committee comprised of faculty who do not have students involved in the competition. This award is given annually. If a student has previously been awarded the Helen and Morgan Chu Fellowship, they are ineligible to apply for this fellowship.

Helen and Morgan Chu Fellowship

This one-year fellowship covers one student stipend for a portion of a year depending on funding. To be eligible to apply, a graduate student must be in their third year (PhD BS) or second year (PhD TM) and must have applied for an external pre-doctoral fellowship or major award within the last two years. The application process is managed by the Assessment committee once the competition opens. The awardees will be determined by a faculty committee comprised of faculty who do not have students involved in the competition. This award is given annually

External Funding Bonus Program

The external funding bonus program was developed to encourage training experience in applying for external funding grants, increase external support of students and reward students that are awarded external fellowships, or a research training supplement. A bonus of 10% of the student's annual stipend will be paid to students that receive an external fellowship with substantial external funding covering at least 50% of their stipend and fringe. A \$1,500 bonus will be paid to the named pre-doctoral student who is awarded a research supplement in Health-Related Research based on the NIH grants listed below covering at least 50% of the student's stipend and fringe. Students in their third year and beyond the bonus will be paid by the Mentor and first- or second-year student's the bonus will be covered by the Graduate School. These annual bonuses will be effective for each year the student has external funding. A student can only earn one bonus in any given year. To apply for the external bonus program, the student must fill out the bonus application each year ([Graduate School Intranet - Find in Graduate Student Documents](#)) within 30 days of the award approval or renewal and submit it to the Registrar. The Graduate Leadership Committee will review the application to determine if the application meets the criteria outlined above.

List of NIH Grant Research supplements

Research project grants	R00, R01 (or RL1), R10, R18, R21/R33, R22, R24, R35, R37
Multi-project grants	P01 (or PL1), P20, P30, P40, P41, P50, P51, P60
Small business awards	R41, R42, R43, R44
Cooperative agreements	U01 (or UL1), U10, U19, U41, U42, U54
Director's awards	DP1, DP2

Appendix A: Federal Compliance

Title IX Complaint Procedures

I. Introduction

Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at City of Hope (the “School”) has developed the following procedures to provide prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (“Title IX”). Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs. This law states in part:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...

Use of these procedures does not affect other rights and remedies that may be available to a complainant under federal and state statutes prohibiting discrimination. These procedures are available to anyone who, at the time of an alleged violation, is enrolled at or employed by the Graduate School.

II. Definitions

Complainant: person filing the complaint of discrimination (including harassment) on the basis of sex.

Respondent: person alleged to have discriminated (including harassment) on the basis of sex.

Title IX Coordinator: means the employee designated to coordinate the Graduate School’s efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX and the Title IX implementing regulations.

III. Procedures

A. Any person enrolled at or employed by the Graduate School and claiming to have been discriminated against by the Graduate School in its education programs or activities on the basis of sex may use these procedures. All complaints of sex discrimination will be promptly investigated by the Title IX Coordinator or their designee.

1. Complaints should be addressed to:

Joline Treanor, Title IX Coordinator
City of Hope Graduate School of Biological Sciences
1500 E. Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010
jtreaanor@coh.org

- C. Complaints against the Title IX Coordinator will be processed in accordance with these procedures except that all responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator will be fulfilled by the Corporate Compliance Officer of City of Hope or their designee. Under these circumstances, complaints should be addressed to:

Chief Compliance Officer
CorporateCompliance@coh.org (ext.88084)

B. Informal Resolution

1. Any person subject to this policy may seek advice or information on matters relating to discrimination or harassment without having to lodge a formal complaint. However, a person subject to this policy is not required to pursue informal resolution before making a formal complaint.
2. The Title IX Coordinator or the Corporate Compliance Officer, if the matter relates to the Title IX Coordinator, may be able to mediate the conflict by discussing the allegation informally with relevant parties in an attempt to end the alleged discrimination or harassment and resolve the issue. If there is a resolution acceptable to both parties, the matter will not proceed further.
3. Records will be kept of materials generated by such informal mediation along with an informal written agreement that will be reviewed and signed by both parties and maintained by the Title IX Coordinator.

C. Formal Complaint Procedures

1. In order for a complaint to be formally investigated, the complaint must be filed in writing. The complaint must be filed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation. Complaints must contain the following information:
 - Name, address, and telephone number of the complainant.
 - A brief description of the alleged violation, including the location and date of the incident(s) and the names of all participants and known observers of the offensive conduct.
 - The relief the complainant seeks.
 - The complainant's signature.
2. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the complaint merits formal review. A formal complaint may be dismissed at this stage if the complaint is deemed groundless for such reasons as the following: the complaint is not filed in a timely fashion; or the alleged behavior does not constitute a violation of Title IX. The Title IX Coordinator will seek the advice of the Office of General Counsel as needed.

3. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the complaint merits formal review, the Title IX Coordinator will advise the Dean about the complaint and will, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel, initiate a formal investigation of the complaint. An individual, a committee or an outside party may conduct the investigation. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the facts relating to the complaint. The investigation will include, at a minimum, the following steps:

- interviews with each of the complainant and the respondent
- interviews with others identified as witnesses
- review of any relevant documents submitted to the investigator

If appropriate, the respondent may be placed on a leave of absence during the investigation.

4. It is expected that the investigation of a complaint will be completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the complaint. This timeline, however, is subject to change depending on various factors, including but not limited to, the complexity of the investigation.

5. Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall issue to the Title IX Coordinator, and, if appropriate, the Office of General Counsel, a written report of the findings and conclusions of the investigation. The report will provide a determination of the merits of the complaint related to Title IX and, if applicable, options for substantive resolution of the complaint and recommendations for corrective measures. The Title IX Coordinator shall review the written report and submit it to the Dean within five (5) days of receipt of the report.

6. The Dean shall decide based on the record and shall notify the complainant and the respondent in writing of the decision and the basis for the decision, including any corrective action to be taken, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the investigator's report.

- C. If a violation of Title IX occurred, sanctions will be imposed, and actions will be taken to prevent any further discrimination or harassment. Depending on the severity of the case, sanctions include, but are not limited to:
- verbal counseling/training
 - a formal written warning placed in respondent's file
 - transfer of advisees and/or removal from positions of administrative responsibility
 - removal from a supervisory position
 - enforced leave of absence/suspension
 - termination of employment or permanent dismissal

IV. Appeal

A. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Dean's decision, the complainant may file a written appeal to the Corporate Compliance Officer. The written appeal must include a detailed statement of the basis of the appeal. The Corporate Compliance Officer shall notify the complainant of the final decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal.

V. General Considerations

A. Retaliation Prohibited. No person shall be subject to discharge, suspension, discipline, harassment, or any form of discrimination for having used or having assisted others in using the grievance process. The Title IX Coordinator will, where warranted, investigate a complaint of alleged retaliation in the same manner as is described herein.

B. Calculation of Time. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays shall be disregarded in calculating time periods specified in these grievance procedures.

C. Respondent Not a Student or Employee. If the respondent is not enrolled at or employed by the Graduate School, there may be additional procedures that apply. For example, if a respondent were a member of the City of Hope National Medical Center Medical Staff, the provisions of City of Hope's Harassment Policy addressing harassment by a member of the Medical Staff would be applied.

FERPA-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who is attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review your education records within 45 days after the day IMGS receives a request for access. A student should submit to the Registrar a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the Registrar to whom the request was submitted, that Registrar shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request an amendment to your student education records that you believe is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the IMGS to amend a record should write to the Registrar to clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed and specify why it should be changed.

If the IMGS decides not to amend the record as requested, the Registrar will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the Graduate School discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The school discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests or in the case the information is designated as directory information.

4. The right to file a complaint. An eligible student has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by IMGS to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202 FORMATTING

Definitions

Directory Information: Under FERPA directory information is information contained in a student's education record that would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Institutions may disclose designated directory information without written consent at the discretion of the Registrar. The IMGS considers the following to be directory information:

- Name
- Email address
- Program
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- Degree status
- Major Field of Study
- Awards received include honors, scholarships, fellowships, grants, and dean's list
- Photographic, video, or electronic images

If you do not want IMGS to disclose directory information from your education records without written consent, you must notify the Registrar in writing.

Note: Once a student's record has been made confidential, no information can be shared about the individual without the student's written consent. In such a case, problems may occur thereafter when potential employers or other parties make inquiries about the student.

Education Records: An education record is defined as any information or data that is related to a student and is maintained by an educational agency, or institution, or by a party acting for the agency or institution. Education records include any information or data recorded in any medium.

Examples of education records include, but are not limited to the following:

- Academic assessments
- General counseling and advising records
- Disciplinary records
- Financial aid records
- Admissions information for students who are accepted and enrolled
- Biographical information (date and place of birth, gender, nationality, race and ethnicity, and identification photographs)
- Course work, schedules or communication that are part of the academic process

Education records DO NOT include (narrowly defined):

- Records in the sole possession of the maker
- Law enforcement records
- Employment records when employment is not contingent on being a student
- Medical or psychological treatment records
- Alumni records

School Official: A school official is a person employed by IMGS in an administrative, managerial, academic, research, or support staff position (including human resources and health staff); a person serving on the board or committee; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside IMGS who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the Graduate School with respect to the use and maintenance of educational records, such as an attorney, auditor, collection agent, a hosted software company or a verification agency.

Legitimate Educational Interest: A school official has a legitimate educational interest when the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their responsibility on behalf of the Graduate School, such as when the official is performing a task that is specific in their job description, or by a contract agreement, or other official appointment; performing a task related to a student's education; performing a task related to the discipline of a student; or providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, or financial aid.

The complete regulations and full definitions of terminology are on the [U.S. Department of Education site](#).

Appendix B: Important Contacts

IMGS Direct Line: 626-218-3783

Graduate Student Documents: [Graduate School Intranet - Find in Graduate Student Documents](#)

Health Care Benefits: Gallagher (formerly known as Garnett-Powers & Associates), provides customer service support for your health benefit programs. For customer service regarding enrollment, general benefit questions and confirmation, you should contact:

Toll Free: 1 (800) 261-7109, Email: COHBP@garnett-powers.com, Website coh.gpa.services

Lyra makes it easier to find and receive confidential, personalized, short-term mental health care. Their online platform allows you to sign up in just a few clicks, find the right coach or therapist for your needs, and quickly book an appointment in-person or via live video. You and your spouse or domestic partner, dependents under age 26 and household members are each eligible for up to 12 sessions per year with a Lyra Therapist or coach covered at no cost to you.

- Register at coh.lyrahealth.com
- Complete a brief wellness questionnaire to receive personalized care recommendations
- Review high-quality coaches and therapists matched to your needs.
- Book an appointment in-person or via video as early as the next day or tap into self-care apps.

Learn more at coh.lyrahealth.com; care@lyrahealth.com; 877-672-1266

Work-Life Services

Are also available to help you resolve emergencies, guide you through challenges and help you stay on top of your busy life. Services available to support you include legal and financial consultations, identity theft support and child, elder and pet care resources and referrals. [Click here](#) to access the Work-Life Services flier. *Use access code: **Lyra-Coh**.

Onsite Support: Dr. Monica Martinez providermartinezrmonica@gmail.com

Security: Emergency on Duarte Campus: Call 55 or 626-218-5555 or **off Campus:** Call 911

If you are uncomfortable walking to your vehicle, call **security (ext. 84000)** and they will escort you.

Anonymous Compliance Hotline

(877) COH-COH8

(877) 264-2648

Shuttles: Shuttle Services run Monday-Friday from 5:30am-9:00pm. During peak hours (6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7:30 p.m.), shuttles run approximately every 10 to 15 minutes. During non-peak times, shuttles run approximately every 20 to 25 minutes. To track on-campus shuttles, please use the ETA Spot mobile app.

ITS: Computer Support 84357 or (626) 218-4357

Title IX Coordinator: Joline Treanor, Chief Human Resource Officer, email: jtreaanor@coh.org

Hotlines:

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Students can call, text, or chat **988**. They also have a deaf and hard of hearing options plus Spanish language speakers. It's available 24 hours. The website is <https://988lifeline.org/>

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) HelpLine: Call 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) to speak with a specialist who can provide information, resources, and support.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Helpline: Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for immediate assistance.

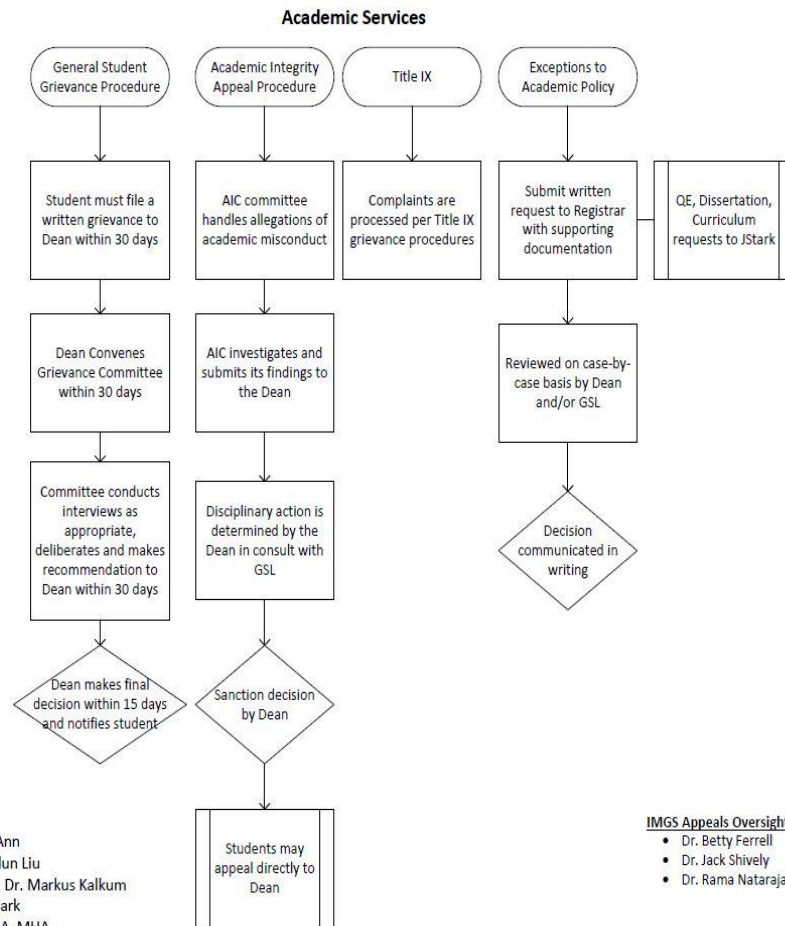
National Hopeline Network: Call 1-800-442- (HOPE)4673 for immediate assistance.

National Maternal Mental Health Hotline: Call or text 1-833-TLC-MAMA for support.

Appendix C: Academic and Student Services Policy

The Academic and Student Services Policy can be accessed using this [link](#):

Academic Services:



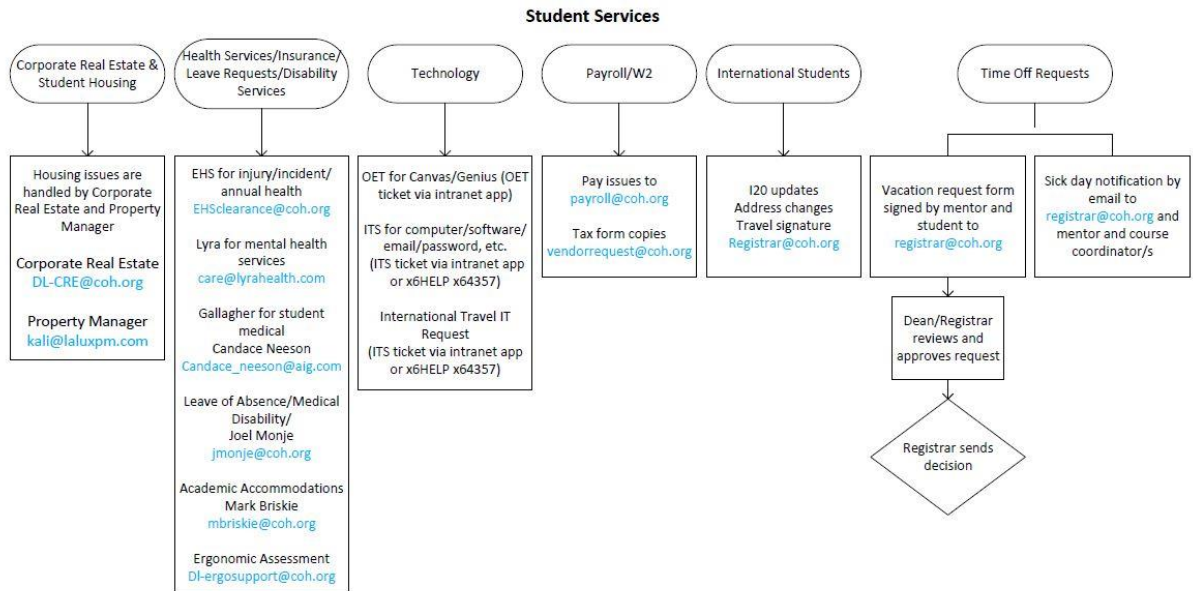
Contacts

Dean of Graduate School: Dr. David Ann
 Vice-Dean of Graduate School: Dr. Yilun Liu
 Academic Integrity Committee Chair: Dr. Markus Kalkum
 Director of Curriculum: Dr. Jeremy Stark
 Registrar's Office: Kendra Carter, MBA, MHA
 Title IX Coordinator: Joline Treanor, CHRO jtreatnor@coh.org
 CRE & Property Manager: DL-CRE@coh.org & kali@laluxpm.com
 Security: 55

IMGS Appeals Oversight Subcommittee:

- Dr. Betty Ferrell
- Dr. Jack Shively
- Dr. Rama Natarajan

Student Services:



Contacts

Dean of Graduate School: Dr. David Ann
 Vice-Dean of Graduate School: Dr. Yilun Liu
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- Dr. Betty Ferrell
- Dr. Jack Shively
- Dr. Rama Natarajan

Appendix D: Abbreviations List

ACLAM - American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

AIC - Academic Integrity Committee

ARC - Animal Resources Center

BRI – Beckman Research Institute

COH – City of Hope

CPI - Characters per inch

DAR - Department of Animal Resources

DCM - Department of Comparative Medicine

AR-DMRI – Arthur Riggs Diabetes and Metabolism Research Institute of the City of Hope

DVM- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FICA - Federal Insurance Contributions Act

FSR - Fundamentals of Scientific Research

FTB - California Franchise Tax Board

GSBS - Graduate School of Biological Sciences

GSL - Graduate School Leadership

GSO - Graduate Student Organization

IDP - Individual Development Plan

IMGS - Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences

IRS - Internal Revenue Service

The Lundquist Institute-Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute/Harbor at UCLA Medical Center

LEL - Leading-Edge Lectures

NIH - National Institutes of Health

PDF - Portable Document File

QE - Qualifying Examination

Appendix E: Employee Assistance Program (Lyra)

lyra

City of Hope.

OVERVIEW

Your Go-To for Mental Health

Enhance your wellness and find confidential care for your emotional and mental health, how, when and where you need it. Whether you're feeling stressed, burned out or grieving a loss, support from Lyra can help.

Hi, I'm Destinee

It helps you write a new narrative for your life. I've been a therapist for 15 years and I've used all of my experience to help you. I create a new, healthier narrative. I'm an advocate for you.

My services include:

- Guidance, coaching, therapy, depression, career issues, bereavement, life transitions, life purpose, and follow-up care.

Additional services and resources:

- Secure messaging

Keep it real...

Topline provider of care, we're used to some clients such as the availability to meet in person. I support clients as - wherever for you.

Guided self-care with a coach

Get a care plan crafted by your Lyra coach and learn new mental health strategies at your own pace.

Mental health coaching

Get to the root of your challenges with effective care from a mental health coach via video or live messaging.

In-person and video therapy

Meet with a therapist for diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions like depression, PTSD and more.

Essentials

Tap into self-led wellness tools anytime, anywhere.

“

I can't believe that genuine help was only a click away. I'm beyond grateful for Lyra.

— Lyra client

Learn more at coh.lyrahealth.com.
care@lyrahealth.com | (877) 672-1266

PROVIDED BY LYRA PARTNERS

Work-Life Services

Sometimes life throws a wrench in the works. Experts beyond mental health are available to resolve emergencies, guide you through challenges and help you stay on top of your busy life.

Services and available support



Legal Consultations

Partner: CLC Incorporated

- 30-minute free consultation with an attorney or mediator and a 25% discount on ongoing services
- 24/7 emergency services
- Easy-to-use legal forms, documentation preparation and online legal library



Identity Theft Support

Partner: CLC Incorporated

- 60-minute free consultation with a fraud resolution specialist
- Assists members with restoring their identity and good credit
- Free ID theft emergency response kit



Child, Elder, Pet Care

Partner: EmployeeCare

- Access code: Lyra-Coh
- Child, elder and pet care consultations, resources and referrals
- 24/7 access to services online or by phone
- Online library of educational resources



Financial Consultations

Partner: CLC Incorporated

- 30-minute free consultation with experienced financial counselor
- 30-minute free consultation on income tax planning and a 25% discount on the CPA's normal fee for document preparation
- Online financial library

Get started at coh.lyrahealth.com.
care@lyrahealth.com | (877) 672-1266

Lyra Health, Inc. works in partnership with Lyra Clinical Associates P.C. and other contracted partners to be your Lyra care team and deliver clinical services. Your Lyra benefit covers the cost of as many in-person or live video sessions clinically indicated by your Lyra provider, up to 12 care sessions. For care exclusions, please see the Lyra FAQ.