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# 1. Welcome

## 1.1 Graduate Program Director Welcome

Dear Biology Graduate Students,

Welcome to the Boston College Biology Department! We're excited to have you join us as you begin your Ph.D. journey.

This handbook is designed to be your go-to resource for all the information and the elements necessary to complete your Ph.D. We have outlined departmental policies and





## 2. Ph.D. Program

The Boston College Biology Ph.D. program is a research-oriented program that prepares students for careers in academia, industry, and government. The program is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in biological sciences and to develop their research skills and critical thinking abilities.

### 2.1 Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes for students who complete a Ph.D. in Biology include being able to:

- x Formulate a novel research question and design controlled experiments required to answer it.
- x Demonstrate a broad knowledge of theory and research in several areas of Biology and an in-depth understanding of one area.
- x Display an understanding of the ethical guidelines for biological research and be able to follow such guidelines.
- x

Summer One:

Thesis Research (Research Assistantship/Teaching Assistantship)

Semester Three:

Thesis Research (Research Assistantship/Teaching Assistantship)

Biology-approved Graduate Elective (optional)

2 or 3 credits

inquiry, and • ] v Ÿ . Á œ ] Ÿ v P X μ œ ] v P . Students take a total of four credit courses. These include: Experimental Methods and Design (BIOL 6430), Molecular and Cellular Control Mechanism (BIOL 6440), and two semesters of Control Mechanism (BIOL 6440), and two semesters of Control Mechanism (BIOL 6440).



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## 2.7 Comprehensive Exam

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Morrissey Graduate School. The electronic form ([found here](#)) should be prepared by the student (signing) following the defense.

## 2.10 M.S. Degree option for students in the Ph.D. Program

Depending on circumstances, the student or the student's Research Advisor may determine the student's option to complete an M.S. thesis. The student must write and defend a research thesis within one semester of transferring out of the Ph.D. program. The student must follow the procedures outlined in the M.S. Thesis Defense Procedures Manual for Arts and Sciences must be followed.

The completed M.S. thesis must be approved by the student's Research Advisor for approval. Once approved, the thesis will be given to all members of the M.S. Thesis Defense Committee by the student's Research Advisor.

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### 3.4 Teaching Assistant Responsibilities

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assignments are jointly determined by the Director of Undergraduate Programs and the  
Graduate Program Director. The goal is to announce assignments at least two weeks before  
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### 4.1 Graduate Admissions Committee

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candidate will defend the thesis with a public seminar







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The Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences provides [funding one conference per year](#) for each graduate student. This funding is typically supplemented with funds from the Research Advisors external grants or departmental funding. Prior to travel, please discuss what expenses  
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Graduate Program Student Services Administrator.

### 5.3 Boston College Offices Supporting Research

the [d Z\]vP ••\]•š v š v d Z\]vP](#), as well as [Resources for Teaching](#)  
[WZ\]o}•}%oZÇ v d Z\]vP W](#). The CTE also hosts the Graduate Student  
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Teaching Excellence Awards, as well as graduates from the ACT program.

## 6. Ph.D. Program Data

### 6.1 Time to degree

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### 6.2 Publications

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