

Thesis Proposal & Advancement to Candidacy

By the **end of the second summer** at Georgia Tech, every QBioS Ph.D. student must seek admission to candidacy by presenting a 10-page Proposal, including 2 additional pages of references to a Thesis Proposal Committee (TPC) composed of their primary research supervisor and 3 other faculty members; of these 3, at least one must be from the QBioS program faculty. Every student is required to defend their Proposal to their TPC in the form of a 45 minute oral presentation followed by brief questions from the public, followed by an additional 30-60 minutes of questions from the committee. The written Thesis Proposal should contain (1) a review of the literature of their field; (2) a discussion of how the proposed research fits into that field; and (3) a summary of preliminary results. Each TPC member (except for the supervisor) is expected to ask questions designed to probe the students' understanding of their proposed research. It is the responsibility of the TPC to decide if the student "passes" or "fails" the Thesis Proposal. A student who passes is formally admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. A student who fails must rewrite his/her Thesis Proposal and/or repeat the oral presentation no later than the subsequent semester as directed by their TPC.