

## **Thesis Proposal & Advancement to Candidacy**

By the end of the **second summer at Georgia Tech**, every QBioS PhD student must seek admission to candidacy by presenting an 8-page Proposal, including 2 additional pages of references to a Thesis Proposal Committee (TPC) composed of their primary research supervisor and at least 3 other Georgia Tech faculty members, including at least 2 members from the QBioS program faculty. Every student is required to defend their Proposal to their TPC in the form of a 30 minute oral presentation 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 PhD 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. After successful defense of the Thesis Proposal, students should register for Doctoral Thesis (9000) hours with their supervisor rather than Special Problems (8901/8902) hours. There is no comprehensive qualifying exam required.