GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

2015-2016
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### BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Michael Sorenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Chairs</td>
<td>Frank Naya</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Eldred</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pamela Templer</td>
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<td>Kim McCall</td>
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<td>Eric Widmaier</td>
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<td>Sara Martin</td>
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<td>Richard Rigolini</td>
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<td>Stacy Straaberg Finfrock</td>
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<td>Meredith Canode</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christina Honeycutt</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Graduate Studies</td>
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<td>Director of Undergraduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
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<td>Financial Administrator</td>
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<td>Graduate Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Academic Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Accounts Analyst</td>
<td>Barbara Caloggero</td>
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<td>Materials/Facilities Manager</td>
<td>Thomas Symancyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockroom Senior Staff Assistant</td>
<td>Nate Garrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stable Isotope Laboratory Coordinator</td>
<td>Robert Michener</td>
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<td>Workshop Supervisor</td>
<td>Jonathan Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Labs Director</td>
<td>Kathryn Spilios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Supervisor (Introductory Labs)</td>
<td>Fred Earthrowl</td>
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<td>Introductory Biology Administrative Coordinator</td>
<td>Chenille Hogan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Lab Supervisor</td>
<td>Ashley Jennings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Supervisor (upper-level)</td>
<td>Barkha Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy Labs Coordinator</td>
<td>Dale Pasino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology Labs Coordinator</td>
<td>Angela Seliga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging and Proteomics Core Director</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
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</tbody>
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### Graduate committee:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair / Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution</td>
<td>Pete Buston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Trevor Siggers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
<td>Ian Davison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2
The goal of the Biology Department at Boston University is to train students at the highest level in one of three broad sub-fields within modern Biology. Upon completion of the Ph.D., students should be prepared for post-graduate training and to eventually assume teaching and/or research positions in academia, industry, government or non-profit agencies.

The Director of Graduate Studies oversees academic programs and policies at the graduate level in the Department of Biology. In addition, we have a Graduate Committee, consisting of the Chair of the Committee and department faculty representing the three programmatic areas in the Department (Ecology, Behavior and Evolution; Cell & Molecular Biology; Neurobiology). The Committee Chair and members of the Committee are appointed by the Chair of the Department. The Graduate Committee is responsible for the programs of continuing students, allocating Department Travel and Research Grants, and maintaining overall standards in the Graduate programs.

Research Material Ownership

All Master’s and Ph.D. students should be aware that Boston University serves as the guardian of research conducted at Boston University, including research supported by all Government agencies and most private foundations. This has several implications.

- Patents that arise from research conducted at Boston University are the property of Boston University, as outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

- Students are required to leave all original data and notebooks at Boston University upon completion of their studies. Students may take photocopies of these original research data and notes.

Grades and Academic Standing for Graduate Students

Student responsibilities:

Briefly, each graduate student is expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA and receive no more than two grades below B-. Three failing grades (C+ or lower or a permanent "T" grade) will result in termination from the program.

As outlined in the Graduate School Bulletin, the Graduate School allows no more than eight credits with a grade less than B- (C+ or lower) and the Biology Department requires maintenance of a 3.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing and be eligible to complete the graduate degree. Teaching grades are not included in calculating the GPA. Any student receiving a grade lower than B- in a graduate course will be counseled by his or her faculty advisor and the appropriate member of the Graduate Committee. Any student who receives a second grade lower than B- will be counseled by the Director of Graduate Studies, and will lose good academic standing in the Biology Department. All Departmental guarantees including financial support guarantees are dependent on being in good academic standing.

The Director of Graduate Studies will advise any student on academic probation of the specific time frame (generally within 2 semesters) during which the student must re-establish a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and, thus, regain good academic standing. Failure to
meet these requirements within the specified time, or receipt of a third grade lower than B- will result in a recommendation to the graduate school of termination of the student’s enrollment at the University. Appeals of the decision to recommend termination may be made to the Graduate Committee.

Faculty responsibilities:

The faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies are responsible for monitoring the academic performance of each graduate student each semester. These individuals should notify the Graduate Committee of any student who receives a grade below B-. The Director of Graduate Studies will inform the Graduate Committee of the requirements for regaining good academic standing for any student placed on academic probation. The Graduate Committee will serve as the venue for student appeals.

FACILITIES FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
(All Charles River Campus Biology buildings are non-smoking)

**Biology Research Building** (BRB), 5 Cummington Mall, Boston, MA
This building houses departmental administrative offices, research laboratories, and offices of faculty in the Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution (EBE), Marine (BUMP), and the Physiology, Endocrinology, Reproduction (PER) programs. It also houses departmental common facilities, including the Aquarium Room, Stable Isotope Laboratory, DNA Sequencing and Molecular Biology Facility, Workshop, Instrument Rooms, Environmental Rooms, a graduate student lounge, seminar rooms, and two classrooms.

**Biological Science Center** (BSC), 2 Cummington Mall, Boston, MA
This building houses research laboratories, and offices for faculty and graduate students in Cell & Molecular Biology (CM).

**Life Sciences and Engineering Building** (LSE), 24 Cummington Mall, Boston, MA
This building houses a centralized stockroom, the offices and laboratories of faculty members in Cell and Molecular Biology (CM) and Neurobiology (NEURO) as well as departmental common facilities, including instrument rooms and environmental rooms. It also houses departmental common facilities, including the Electron Microscope and Confocal Imaging Facility and the Biology Media Center.

**Metcalf Center for Science and Engineering** (SCI), 590 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA
This facility houses the administrative offices for Introductory Biology and the departmental teaching laboratories. Laboratories for Introductory Biology are located on the third floor (west side). The fourth floor houses upper-division teaching laboratories. This building houses the University-wide Laboratory Animal Care Facility, and public lounges, as well as the teaching laboratories, offices, and research laboratories of the Departments of Chemistry and Physics.

**Science and Engineering Library**, 38 Cummington Mall, Boston, MA
This library contains most of the University’s holdings in Science and Engineering. More general holdings are located in the Mugar Library at 775 Commonwealth Ave. On-line catalogue and journal access is available at both libraries, as well as any departmental computer terminal.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

M.A. DEGREE Requirements for the Department of Biology
(Individual program requirements may be more specific)

Faculty Advisors

Each graduate student admitted to the M.A. Degree program will be assigned a faculty advisor. The appropriate Research or Library Research paper committee will be formed no later than the first year of full-time graduate study.

I. General Requirements:

- General Credits. All Master’s Students must complete at least 32 credits of graduate work (as detailed below for each type of Master’s degree in Biology). Two courses (8 credits) may be transferred in from another university upon approval of the advisor (Transfer Credit Approval forms are available in Graduate School, 705 Commonwealth Ave., Room 112).

- Financial Aid. Students in the Master’s programs are eligible for Teaching Assistantships and Departmental Scholarships, but typically are not provided with a guarantee of support.

II. Special Requirements:

1. Research Master’s (with thesis)

- Course Work. The student must complete at least 32 credits of graduate level work. At least 20 of these graduate level credits must come from formal course work (cannot include credits from any research course).

- Research Thesis. The student must write a thesis detailing original research that was conducted under the sponsoring faculty member. The thesis will generally include the following sections: Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References and figures and/or tables summarizing research. The thesis must be read and approved by a committee of three faculty members that includes at least two faculty members from the Biology Department; one committee member must be the faculty member who acted as the Major Professor for the student’s research. Ordinarily the student will receive written comments from all committee members that she/he is required to incorporate into a final version of the thesis. Upon satisfactory completion of revisions, the readers must sign and approve the signature page of the final version of the thesis. The thesis title must be approved by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the a properly formatted draft of the thesis must be submitted by email to grsrec@bu.edu for format review 3 weeks before the thesis is due. The final reader-approved thesis must be submitted to ETD Administrator (http://www.etdadmin.com/bu) for final approval by the graduate school before the date posted on the GRS submission calendar. The final electronic version will be reviewed by Laura Wipf, and then forwarded to the Mugar Library ETD Administrator for the final format review, before its submission to ProQuest/UMI Administrator. Additionally a copy should be given to all committee members, the Department, and one copy should be kept by the student. An oral defense, while not required, is strongly recommended. Details on thesis
submission dates can be found at:  
http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/graduation-information/

2. **Non-Research Master’s (with Library Research Paper).**

- **Course Work.** The student must complete 32 credits of graduate level course work. Ordinarily, these courses will be selected under the mentorship of the faculty member who is serving as the student’s primary library research paper reader (see below).

- **Library Research Paper.** The student must write a Library Research Paper on a selected topic in Biology. This paper will generally be a document of approximately 30-80 pages on a selected research topic in current Biology and will usually include several chapters and extensive literature references. This paper will be written in consultation with a faculty member from the Biology Department who will serve as the primary reader. The final version of the document must be read and approved by at least two faculty members (i.e., the primary reader and one other faculty member) from the Biology Department. A final copy must be given to all committee members, the Department, and one copy should be kept by the student. The library paper is not submitted to GRS.

3. **Master’s of Arts for Ph.D. students.** Two options.

- **Option one.** A Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy (as demonstrated by passing the Ph.D. qualifying exam), and has completed 32 credits of graduate level course work (not including research) may apply to the Graduate School for a Master’s of Arts degree in Biology. This must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies within the Biology Department. The student’s major professor should receive notification of this application process.

- **Option two.** A Ph.D. student who has not been advanced to candidacy based on the Ph.D. qualifying examination may still receive a Master’s degree. This student may receive a Master’s degree if at least three members (including at least two faculty members from the Biology Department) of the Ph.D. qualifying examination committee vote that the student’s performance on the qualifying examination was of sufficiently high quality for a Master’s degree. In addition, this student must have completed at least 32 credits of graduate level course work.

**Time Limits.** Officially, Research and Non-Research Master’s must be completed within three years from the date of first registration. However, students may apply to the graduate school for extensions past the three-year deadline. The degree is conferred at the end of the academic year or as specified in the Graduate School Bulletin.
**M.A. TIMETABLE FOR THESIS PREPARATION AND DEFENSE**

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<tr>
<td>Formatted draft of thesis (submitted to GRS)</td>
<td>3 weeks before August 14, 2015</td>
<td>3 weeks before Dec. 11, 2015</td>
<td>3 weeks before April 8, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><em><strong>Final Approved thesis submitted to ETD on or before</strong></em></td>
<td>Aug, 14, 2015</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 2015</td>
<td>April 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation of Readers’ approval submitted to GRS on or before</td>
<td>Aug, 14, 2015</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 2015</td>
<td>April 8, 2016</td>
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*The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a new application must be filed if the student does not graduate as planned.

***Prior to the signing of the thesis, the candidate must schedule an appointment with the Graduate School Records Officer for review of the thesis format. M.A. degree requirements are complete only when both copies of the thesis have been certified as meeting the standards of the graduate School and of the library. This is not necessary for the library research paper (non-research MA).
Ph.D. DEGREE requirements for the Department of Biology  
(Individual program requirements may be more specific)

Course Requirements

- 64 credits
- No more than 32 research credits (the rest must be formal courses)
- A maximum of 8 courses (32 credits) may be transferred in from other institutions
- At least 16 credits must come from formal courses taken at BU

**The GRS BI 699 course for which all teaching fellows register does not count toward these requirements; credits for this course are not tallied as part of the total credit count.**

Faculty Advisory Committee

All Biology graduate students are paired with a primary research advisor (major professor), who is a member of the Biology faculty and who serves as first reader on the student’s thesis. That individual will serve as first reader on his/her thesis. All students admitted to the Ph.D. program will be assigned a temporary faculty advisor. By the end of the second semester of the first year a permanent major advisor should be selected. No later than the end of the third year, the student, in consultation with the major advisor, will have selected a committee consisting of five persons to serve as an Advisory Committee. This committee shall include the research advisor and at least two other faculty members from the Department of Biology, one of whom will serve as the Chair of the Committee for the qualifying examination. The fourth and fifth members of the Committee may be chosen from other faculty of Boston University or from other institutions upon approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the Graduate School. (For faculty outside BU, a "Special Service Appointment Form" must be filled out completely, including a copy of the proposed committee member’s curriculum vitae, and then submitted to the Department Chair. These forms are available in BRB 101.) It is expected that the research advisor will serve as the first reader. Neither first nor second readers may be the chair of the committee.

Once each subsequent year, the student and his/her major professor must jointly convene the Advisory Committee to evaluate the progress of the student. It is recommended that this meeting coincide with the annual research presentation at the student seminar. The student should be prepared to present either a written or an oral report on research progress to the committee. Deficiencies in course work, research activity, etc. should be noted, and recommendations, if needed, should be made to the student and included in his/her annual report. Students failing to comply with these recommendations may be subject to probation and loss of financial support from the Department. Generally, the composition of the Faculty Advisory Committee remains the same for the duration of the student's graduate program. Changes in committee membership can be made by mutual agreement among those involved, but the final dissertation committee must meet the membership requirements listed above.

Teaching Requirement: The department requires a minimum of two semesters of teaching during a student's graduate career as part of the Doctor of Philosophy degree. During the first semester of teaching, students are required to enroll in our first year seminar course, BI697. The course provides guidance and training on pedagogy and
other aspects of graduate school.

Qualifying Examination: A Ph.D. student is required to complete a written and oral qualifying examination in his/her field of specialization and related fields as defined by the Faculty. The faculty committee will prepare and administer each phase of the examination. This examination must be passed within the first three years of residence at Boston University. Failure of any part of the examination constitutes failure to advance to candidacy. A student will have two chances to pass the examination. A second failure will result in dismissal of the student from the graduate program. Individual graduate programs within the Biology Department may have more specific guidelines for candidacy and the qualifying examination.

Dissertation: Responsibility for the successful completion of the dissertation lies with the candidate, who, through insight, initiative, and resourcefulness, shall make a definite contribution to the knowledge of his or her specialized field. A timetable for the preparation and defense of the dissertation can be found at the end of this section.

Responsible Conduct in Research: All Biology Ph.D. students are required to begin the Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) training during their first year, and complete it within four years of entering the program. RCR is offered through the Provost’s Office and involves online modules and a series of afternoon training sessions of lectures and round table discussions covering topics such as proper data acquisition and management, research collaboration ethics, publication do’s and don’ts, social responsibility in research, research that involves human subjects, and research that involves animals. Information about this series will be provided at appropriate times during the academic year. See http://www.bu.edu/orc/training/responsible-conduct-of-research/.

TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR STUDENTS WITH PRIOR MASTER’S DEGREES

Students who have obtained Master’s degrees at previous institutions must apply to transfer credit from their Master’s degrees. Transfer of Credit Request Forms and procedures can be found at: http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/grs-transfer-of-credit-request/

At least 32 credits towards the PhD must be completed at Boston University (i.e., a maximum of 32 credits may be transferred).

- Forms should be submitted online for the credits being requested for transfer from another institution
- The form will be reviewed by the GRS Records Office to determine if these specific courses are eligible to be transferred in accordance with GRS policy
- If courses are determined to be eligible, GRS will forward the request to the departmental Director of Graduate Studies for review and approval

Further details on transfer credit can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/transfer-of-credits/
PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A BIOLOGY PH.D. DISSERTATION

Conferral of the Ph.D. degree in Biology is dependent upon the successful preparation and defense of a Ph.D. dissertation on original research conducted by the student. A precise timetable for completion of essential steps in submission of a Ph.D. dissertation can be obtained from the Graduate School Office. These steps and Biology Department requirements and guidelines are summarized briefly here.

- **A student must have a Dissertation Committee that includes at least five faculty members.** As noted previously, this committee must include at least three full-time faculty members from the Biology Department. One Biology Department member of the Dissertation Committee will be the student's research advisor, who will be the first reader of the dissertation. A second member of the committee will serve as the second reader. A third Biology Department member of the committee will serve as Chair of the Dissertation Defense (see below).

- **Approximately one year prior to the proposed graduation date, a formal Dissertation Prospectus must be submitted to the Graduate School Office.** This document should be prepared in consultation with and with approval of the first and second thesis readers, the Director of Biology Graduate Studies, and the Biology Department Chairman. It is recommended that the student discuss the prospectus at an annual committee meeting prior to submission, or otherwise email the committee for approval. The prospectus generally provides an outline of the major chapters and subheadings to be included in the Ph.D. dissertation. Each chapter listed in the prospectus should include an abstract, that describes what problem will be investigated, what results will be shown and what conclusions will be drawn in the chapter. The abstract will then be followed by a number of points, outlining the major specific results (or lists of figures and tables) that will be presented in that chapter in the final dissertation. The formal Prospectus will generally be approximately 5 to 10 typed, double-spaced pages, but no more than 20.

- **Approximately two months before the defense, the student and the first reader should meet with the Director of Graduate Studies and Departmental Administrative Coordinator to review the timeline and requirements for graduation.**

- **At least 3 weeks prior to the Dissertation Defense:**
  - **An Abstract of the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School Office.** This Abstract (maximum of 350 words) must be approved by the first and second readers, by the Director of Biology Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Biology Department.
  - **Submit draft of dissertation to Laura Wipf by attaching the draft to an email message (to lwipf@bu.edu);** you will be notified if the format is approved.

Because the formatting of the dissertation can be very time consuming; it is advised that all standard formatting issues be resolved before you defend your dissertation. Following your defense, please allow ample time to complete all corrections and content revisions that are required by your committee; 7-14 days for rewrites is advised.
Six videos that will be helpful to you when formatting your dissertation are located at BUniverse at:
http://www.bu.edu/buniverse/search/?q=&sort=created_on&view=det ailed&owner=dioa

• At least 2 weeks prior to the Dissertation Defense, all work that comprises the dissertation, which is prepared as described below and approved by both readers must be distributed to all members of the Dissertation Committee. The student should prepare the dissertation in close consultation with the first and second readers. Ordinarily the dissertation will go through several revisions by the first reader, followed by one or more revisions by second reader.

• A formal announcement of the Dissertation Seminar and Defense will be made in several ways. It is the responsibility of the student to see that the following matters are taken care of.

• At least 2 weeks prior to the Dissertation Defense, a schedule of the Final Seminar and Defense (time, place and list of Dissertation Committee members) must be submitted to the Graduate School Office, along with a copy of the approved Dissertation Abstract.

• The Graduate School Office will mail a formal announcement to all committee members. The Chair of the committee will receive important paperwork needed at the defense.

• A four-page flyer containing an announcement of the Dissertation Seminar and Defense, the Dissertation Abstract, and a brief CV of the candidate must be distributed to all Biology Faculty. This flyer must be prepared by the student and can be given to the Departmental Administrative Coordinator for printing and distribution. A template for the flyer is available on the Biology Department website. Usually the Dissertation Seminar is also publicized by informal posters and e-mail (arranged with the Graduate Program Coordinator).

• A formal Biology Department Dissertation Seminar, for which all five Dissertation Committee members are present, must be given by the Ph.D. candidate. This PowerPoint presentation on the dissertation research will ordinarily last approximately 45-50 minutes and is open to the public. This seminar is usually given immediately before the dissertation defense, but unusual circumstances may be accommodated by prior arrangement with the Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies.

• The student must also pass a private Dissertation Defense in front of the Dissertation Committee (at least five members must be present). By prior arrangement one out of town member of the committee may participate via Skype with interactive video and audio, however a backup committee member must be available in the event of technical difficulties. The Dissertation Defense will ordinarily be a time where committee members will ensure that the research has been completed by and is understood by the candidate, and will voice any concerns over data or the preparation of the dissertation. The Dissertation Defense will usually last 1-2 hours. More than one failing vote on the Dissertation Defense will
constitute a failure. Because the signature of the major professor is required on the dissertation (see below), the major professor must be one of the committee members passing the student on the Ph.D. Dissertation Defense.

- Ordinarily the student will receive written comments from all committee members that he is required to incorporate, in consultation with the first and second readers, into a final version of the dissertation. Upon satisfactory completion of revisions, the first and second readers must sign and approve several copies of the final version of the dissertation. Following the defense when all corrections and revisions required by your committee have been completed, the final approved dissertation is submitted **electronically** to the ETD Administrator (http://www.etdadmin.com/bu). The final electronic version will be reviewed by Laura Wipf, and then forwarded to the Mugar Library ETD Administrator for the final format review, before its submission to ProQuest/UMI Administrator.

- **Please note:** If either office notifies you of necessary corrections or changes, they must be made immediately. A quick response will avoid your registering for another semester, a delay in verifying the completion of your degree requirements, and the issuing of the diploma. It may take some time before the final library review is complete.

- **Contact the Records Officer, Laura Wipf (617-353-2696)** for an appointment to submit the required materials, which will complete the final requirements of the degree program. (Forms must be submitted together).

- The student must also give final copies to the first and second readers (and, when requested, other members of the Dissertation Committee), and should retain at least one final copy for him or her self. To save on photocopying costs and paper, committee members (who are not first and second readers) will often request only that they receive back their copies of the dissertation after the revisions and the corrections have been made by the student. Some committee members may also request pdf copies of the dissertation and this is considered acceptable.

- Organization of the Biology Ph.D. dissertation. A set of rules concerning page sizes, page numbering, etc., of the dissertation can be obtained from the Graduate School Office in a pamphlet entitled Guide for the Writers of Theses and Dissertations. The Graduate School rules must be strictly followed. Below are the guidelines, which are generally applicable to Biology Ph.D. dissertations. The format of the complete dissertation document submitted at the time of the defense should meet the specifications of the Graduate School for final submission of the dissertation as well as these guidelines that follow.

In general, the dissertation is usually organized in one of two formats. The exact format to be followed will usually be decided by the student and the first and second readers.

**Comprehensive dissertation.** This type of dissertation normally will include, in order, the following sections: Title Page, Approval Signature Page, Acknowledgments, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, List of Abbreviations, several
Chapters, and a comprehensive Reference List. The comprehensive dissertation should have a consistent style format from chapter to chapter. For example, Materials & Methods from multiple papers should be combined into a single consistent Materials & Methods chapter, References should be cited consistently throughout the dissertation, and there should be a single Introduction, Discussion, and Reference List.

Chapter One usually provides a general and specific Introduction to the dissertation. This will include an overview of the importance of the work, a specific introduction to the field, and a statement of the dissertation goals.

Chapter Two usually details the Materials & Methods used in the dissertation work.

Chapter Three (and more) describes the Results obtained from the dissertation work. These chapters include figures, tables and descriptions of original work. Often these chapters will have short introductions to provide a framework for the results that will follow. Figures and tables must have appropriate legends.

The final Chapter should include a specific and general Discussion of the dissertation work in light of other work in the field.

Partitioned dissertation. This type of dissertation will normally include, in order, the following sections: Title Page, Approval Signature Page, Acknowledgments, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, List of Abbreviations, several Chapters, and a comprehensive Reference List.

Chapter One usually provides a general and specific Introduction to the dissertation. This will include an overview of the importance of the work, a specific introduction to the field, and a statement of the dissertation goals.

Chapter Two, (and more), will present the Results of the dissertation research organized in a research paper format. That is, each chapter will include the following material as pertinent to the research included in the given chapter: Introduction: Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion and Specific Reference List.

The final Chapter will present a summary of the original research accomplished in the thesis work, and its relevance to the large field, and some perspective for future work.

To be consistent with Graduate School rules, the partitioned dissertation must also include a comprehensive Reference List.

Specific guidelines for presentation of research and data:

In all cases, details for the presentation of original data will be worked out between the student and the first and second readers. However, the following can be used as guidelines:

- Large parts of the written dissertation may be taken or adapted from material already published by the student. However, published papers cannot be simply digitally pasted together. In addition, care must be taken to appropriately identify work done by others in such papers.

- In general, all data relevant to the dissertation should be included in the dissertation. It is usually not acceptable to list primary, relevant data as "data not
shown" or refer to the student’s data published in another source.

- **It is recognized that figures within the dissertation may not be in a consistent format.** For example, figures may have been taken from published articles in journals with different format requirements. In general, it is not necessary to re-make figures for the dissertation. Any work done by others, such as coauthors, must be strictly attributed to them if it needs to be included in the student’s dissertation.

**Specific guidelines for scholarship and citation:**

References must be listed and cited according to a standard and consistent journal format. The full title of each journal referenced must be included unless the reference list is preceded by a list of all journal abbreviations used.

- **The Reference List must include authors, year published, title of article, journal, volume and inclusive pages.** The following provides examples of a suggested format for references:


References should be ordered alphabetically in the final Reference List. Journal name abbreviations may only be used if the Reference List is preceded by a list of these abbreviations along with the full name of each journal. If a given first author has multiple citations, these should be ordered chronologically in the list (starting with the earliest publication). If a given first author has multiple papers in a single year, they should be designated by "a" and "b" (e.g., Doe et al., 1988a; Doe et al., 1988b), etc.

All references included in the final Reference List must be cited at least once within the text of the dissertation, and all references cited within the text must be included in the final Reference List.

- **Citations within text should provide author(s) and date, and be provided in parentheses.** If two authors, use Doe & Smith; if more than two authors, use Doe et al. If multiple citations are given, they are to be separated by semicolons, and ordered by year. That is, the above references would be cited in the text as (White & Gilmore, 1993; Gilmore et al., 1995; White et al., 1995). If one discusses a specific study within the text, include only the year in parentheses; for example, "White et al. (1995) showed that..."

**Expenses:** Costs related to dissertation photocopying and binding are the responsibility of the student.

**Time Limits:** Requirements must be completed within seven years after first
registration for the Ph.D. program. While this limit can be extended by GRS, any extension must be justified.
A candidate must be registered for the semester or summer term in which degree requirements are completed and during the preceding semester.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Prospectus due to Meredith Canode for departmental review</td>
<td>As soon as approved but no later than six months before dissertation defense</td>
<td>As soon as approved but no later than six months before dissertation defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Prospectus Cover Sheet with signatures due in GRS (arrange for signatures with Meredith Canode)</td>
<td>About two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>About two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with Meredith Canode and DGS to review requirements for defense. Bring copy of academic transcript</td>
<td>About two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
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<td>Reserve room(s) for public seminar and defense</td>
<td>Once defense date is firm</td>
<td>Once defense date is firm</td>
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<td>Arrange for any special service appointments if committee members are not BU Faculty (see Meredith Canode)</td>
<td>At least two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
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<td>Review academic transcript to resolve any grade issues and to review credit count.</td>
<td>At least two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft of dissertation (arrange with readers)</td>
<td>About two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>About two months prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intent to Graduate Form (completed online) due in GRS</td>
<td>May 29, 2015</td>
<td>September 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation abstract (max. 350 words) approved by department /program– due in 3RS Office for review and approval by Dean arrange for signatures with Meredith Canode</td>
<td>At least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>At least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properly formatted draft of dissertation submitted as a .pdf to GRS Records Officer (<a href="mailto:lwipf@bu.edu">lwipf@bu.edu</a>) for format review by GRS</td>
<td>Submitted by e-mail at least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>Submitted by e-mail at least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
</tr>
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<td>Schedule of Final Oral Examination due in 3RS with one copy of the approved abstract arrange for signatures with Meredith Canode</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam but no later than July 15, 2015</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam but no later than November 15, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation to all committee members</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit thesis program booklet to Meredith Canode</td>
<td>At least one week prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>At least one week prior to Final Oral Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date to hold Final Oral Exam</td>
<td>August 14, 2015</td>
<td>December 11, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date for submission of Dissertation to ETD, Dissertation Processing Fee to GRS Office, and Contact Information form</td>
<td>August 21, 2015</td>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date for submission to ETD and Dissertation Processing Fee to GRS Office for graduation in the next semester without registering for that semester</td>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>January 19, 2016</td>
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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE CANDIDATES**

* The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a new application must be filed if the student does not graduate as planned.
** All degree requirements are complete only when the doctoral dissertation has been certified as meeting the standards of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and of the Mugar Memorial Library. Abbreviations: GRS = Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, DGS = Director of Graduate Studies, ETD = Electronic Thesis and Dissertation.
All University appointments are for one year only. Continuing students will be notified of the date for accepting financial aid for their teaching fellowship or research assistantship. Students who have failed to submit an Annual Report will not be considered for financial aid. Students filing late application for financial aid cannot be guaranteed support. Master’s students normally will not be guaranteed Department Aid.

Dean's Fellowships: These are fellowships allocated to first year graduate students that do not have immediate teaching requirements.

Teaching Fellowships: These provide a stipend plus tuition (for up to two courses per semester), and cover fees and medical insurance. Teaching responsibilities require approximately 20 hours per week. Full or partial awards may be given. Master’s students are eligible for Teaching Assistantships, which provide a stipend, but no tuition, insurance or fees.

Research Assistantships: These awards are made to assist individual faculty with specific areas of research and are funded by faculty research grants. Tuition scholarships and medical insurance may be included as part of the award. Consult your faculty advisor.

Training Grants: Opportunities for support through this avenue exist (e.g. through the medical school).

Work Study Aid: All eligible graduate students can apply for summer and academic year awards. Applications may be obtained from the Graduate School. Students receiving work-study aid will be expected to provide service to the Department (teaching) or in the laboratory of their major professor (research). Master’s candidates are eligible for federal work-study funding.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Fellowships: First and second-year graduate students are urged to apply for these prestigious three-year fellowships. Applications must be submitted through Fastlane. Information is available at http://www.nsfgrfp.org/.

Department Graduate Travel Grants: Travel Grants may be available to assist students in their travel to professional scientific meetings. Students presenting papers or posters on their research will receive first consideration. Further questions may be directed to the Graduate Committee.

Other sources: Students should see their faculty advisors for other potential sources of financial support, or check the small reference library at the Associate Dean’s Office, Graduate School, Room 115.
PROGRAM AND RESEARCH AREAS

The Department has three graduate program areas: Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution (EBE, including Marine Biology); Neurobiology (NEURO); and Cell and Molecular Biology (CM). Each program area has unique strengths and suggested curricula. The department offers both master's and doctoral degrees in Biology that emphasize independent research on the part of the student, and a non-research master's degree. Many Biology faculty members participate in inter-departmental programs that offer graduate degrees. Among them are: Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry (MCBB); Graduate Program in Neuroscience (GPN); and Bioinformatics (BF).

Various Biology Department programs include faculty active in research in the areas listed below.

- Animal behavior
- Behavioral ecology and sociobiology
- Cancer biology
- Biochemistry
- Cell and molecular neurobiology
- Cell signaling and gene regulation
- Developmental biology
- Ecology and conservation biology
- Endocrinology and reproductive biology
- Genetics
- Marine biology
- Microbial physiology and genetics
- Molecular ecology and evolution
- Neural systems and behavior
- Neuroendocrinology
- Tropical ecology

CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Program in Cell and Molecular Biology offers courses and research opportunities in developmental biology, cell signaling and gene regulation, cancer biology, genetics, biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, and membrane structure and function. Associated programs include the interdisciplinary program in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry (MCBB), and the Bioinformatics program.

Requirements for Cell & Molecular Biology (CM) Candidates in the PhD Program

1. Coursework:
   - Molecular Biology I (BI 552)*  4 cr.
   - Advanced Molecular Biology (BI 753)  4 cr.
   - Graduate Biochemistry (MB 721)*  4 cr.
   - Advanced Cell Biology (BI 735)  4 cr.
   - Progress in CM Biology (BI 583/584)  2 cr./2 cr.
   - Electives: 3 courses‡  12 cr.
   - Research courses:  32 cr.
TOTAL CREDITS: 64 cr.

*students with strong molecular biology/biochemistry backgrounds may bypass this requirement (credit still needed from another elective course)

‡List of recommended elective courses: (although any Biology course can be taken as long as it is for graduate credit. One among those listed in **Bold** is necessary for MA students to satisfy a cell biology requirement)

**BB 522 Molecular Biology Lab (4 cr)**
BI 527 Biochemistry I Laboratory (2 cr)
BI 528 Biochemistry II Laboratory (2 cr)
BI 545 Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior (4 cr)

**BI 551 Stem Cells (4 cr)**

**BI 553 Molecular Biology II (4 cr, for MA students)**
BI 554 Neuroendocrinology (4 cr)

**BI 556 Membrane Biochemistry (4 cr)**

**BI 560 Systems Biology (4 cr)**

**BI 572 Advanced Genetics (4 cr)**
BI 575 Techniques in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology (4 cr)

**BI 576 Carcinogenesis (4 cr)**
BI 581/582 Seminar in Biology (various topics) (2 x 2 cr)

**BI 610 Developmental Biology (4 cr)**
BI 625 General Endocrinology (4 cr)
BI 645 Neurophysiology (4 cr)
BI 655 Developmental Neurobiology (4 cr)

**BI 681 Molecular Biology of the Neuron (4 cr)**

**BI 753 Molecular Biology II (4 cr.)**
BE 561 Protein and DNA Sequence Analysis (4 cr)
BE 768 Biological Database Systems (4 cr)
BE 700 Computational Genomics (4 cr)
BF 527 Bioinformatics (4 cr)
CH 525 Physical Biochemistry (4 cr)
CH 541 Natural Products Chemistry
CH 612 Separation Methods in Chemistry and Biochemistry (4 cr)
CH 721 Enzyme Kinetics and Mechanisms (4 cr)
CH 722 Protein Chemistry (4 cr)
MB 722 Advanced Biochemistry (4 cr)
SPH BS 704 Biostatistics (3 cr)
2. **Grant writing seminar**  
In the first semester of the first year, students take a grant writing seminar course (BI581, 2 credits) that counts towards elective credit. Students will be expected to write an NSF GRFP proposal, which is submitted in early November. Students will write this proposal in consultation with the first rotation advisor.

3. **Seminar**  
Students participate in the CM seminar program that consists of two required weekly seminars, and a number of optional lectures and colloquia. These include BI583/584, described above (meets at 12 noon on Fridays) and the Biology Departmental Seminar Series (meets at 12 noon on Mondays).

4. **Lab Rotations**  
Students are required to perform three laboratory rotations with Biology faculty during their first academic year (6-8 weeks each).

5. **Examinations/Defenses**

**A. Preliminary Exam.** In January or February of the second year, a preliminary exam is administered. This exam must be passed prior to the qualifying examination. The exam covers topics related to Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, and Biochemistry that should have been mastered by students through the required coursework. If any topics are not passed satisfactorily, the student has a second chance to take the exam (usually in June). A student has two chances to pass this exam. If a student fails to pass on their second attempt, the preliminary exam committee, the major professor, and the Department Chair determine if the performance on the exam(s) and/or any additional work is sufficient to confer the M.A. degree.

**B. Qualifying Exam.** The qualifying examination consists of two parts: one, a written research proposal; and two, the oral defense of this research proposal. The qualifying exam should be taken within nine months of passing the preliminary exam.

- **Written Proposal.** The student in consultation with the major professor and other parties submits a WRITTEN proposal of the intended dissertation research. The academic code of conduct applies, and the written document should be from the student's own hand, not just cutting and pasting old grant proposals, papers, etc. The major professor and the examination committee may have input in the form of suggestions on content and organization, but should not directly edit the document. This proposal should include an extensive introduction complete with appropriately cited literature, a list of specific aims, and a description of the intended experiments. The proposal should be approximately 15-20 pages long, double-spaced. The written proposal must be submitted to and approved by the qualifying examination chair at least two weeks prior to the scheduled examination.

- **Oral Exam.** At the examination, the student gives an oral presentation of the proposal. The committee poses questions related to the intended research, background information, and the field of the work. The committee may also question areas perceived as the student's weaknesses during the preliminary exam, but only as they pertain to the research proposal. The committee chair
ensures that the questions are appropriate (e.g. not too far afield) and that each committee member has a more-or-less equal opportunity to question the student.

While this proposal and oral defense is normally on research the student plans to carry out, it is not a thesis defense. There is no requirement for preliminary data and the eventual dissertation work may change considerably over time.

- **Advancing to Candidacy.** The student’s Qualifying Examination Committee is responsible for grading the exam. More than one failing vote, or a failing vote by the major professor, on the qualifying examination constitutes a failure. Any student failing this examination has the opportunity to take it again; at least three months must elapse before a student is allowed to retake the exam. Failure of the second examination is grounds for automatic dismissal from the PhD. program and the loss of any further financial aid, although the student may still be eligible for the M.A. degree provided that those degree requirements are met. If at least four members of the Qualifying Examination Committee, including at least three of the CM faculty, vote that the student’s performance on the examination was at a level appropriate for an M.A. degree, the degree is given. In addition, this student must have completed at least 32 credits of graduate level course work.

C. **Dissertation Defense.** After advancing to candidacy for the Ph.D., the student and his major professor must jointly convene a Dissertation Committee, which meets at least once a year. Ph.D. students should present either a written or oral report on research progress to the thesis committee. The committee meeting date and synopsis must be included on the annual report. This committee consists of no less than five faculty members, of who at least three must be members of the CM faculty. The Dissertation Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a First Reader (the major advisor in CM-Biology), a Second Reader, and at least two other members (a third reader is optional). The dissertation is "defended" at the Final Dissertation Committee meeting at a time agreed on by the student and the Dissertation Committee. At least two weeks prior to the defense, all work that comprises the dissertation and the written dissertation, which meets the specification, described above and has been approved by all readers, must be distributed to the committee. At the Final Dissertation Committee meeting the committee agrees on the adequacy of the body of work and written thesis for the Ph.D. degree. Finally, there is a required public seminar, which is normally given before the defense.

**M.A. Coursework**

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular Biology I (BI 552)</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry I (BI 621)</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One cell biology course†</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives: 5 courses‡,</strong></td>
<td>20 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CREDITS:</strong></td>
<td>32 cr.</td>
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†See list of elective courses, above, under Ph.D. requirements. Those denoted by
**Bold** in the list are acceptable.

‡See list of recommended elective courses, above (except BI 527).

**For those doing a research master’s, 12 credits of electives can come from "research (900-level)" courses.

**Seminar**

M.A. students are not required to participate in the CM seminar program, but they are encouraged to attend both of the following required weekly seminars for the Ph.D. students:

Mondays at 12:00 NOON, Biology Departmental Seminar Series (Outside speakers for Biology and MCBB).

Fridays at 12:00 NOON, CM/MCBB Student Seminar Series.

**ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOR, AND EVOLUTION PROGRAM (includes the Marine Program)**

The Program in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution (EBE) includes courses and research opportunities in behavioral ecology and sociobiology, ecological and evolutionary developmental biology, molecular ecology and evolution, community ecology, biogeochemical ecology, population biology, tropical ecology, and ecosystem ecology. A broad biological perspective is emphasized, including microbes, protists, fungi, plants, insects, fish, birds, and mammals.

**Requirements for the Ecology, Behavior and Evolution Candidates in the Ph.D. Program**

The goal of the Ph.D. program in EBE is to produce comprehensively trained professionals who excel in their individual research and possess a deep and broad understanding of Ecology, Behavior and Evolution. Each person’s ability, preparation, and needs will vary; however, a guide to critical steps in the student’s graduate career is useful for both the student and his/her advisor(s). The following guidelines have been developed as an aid to planning a student’s graduate career. Because the department guarantees financial support for five years only, students are encouraged to be cognizant of time and work efficiently.

**Grant writing seminar**

In the first semester of the first year, students take a grant writing seminar course (BI671, 2 credits) that counts towards elective credit. Students will be expected to write an NSF GRFP proposal, which is submitted in early November. Students write this proposal in consultation with their advisor.

**Research Seminars**

Students participate in the EBE seminar program that consists of two required weekly seminars. These include BI579/580, the EBE Chalk Talk series (meets at 12 noon on Wednesdays) and the Biology Departmental Seminar Series (meets at 12 noon on Mondays).
Committees

Each student is responsible for organizing **annual** meetings with the committee that will advise and oversee his/her Ph.D. program. The annual meeting with the committee is critically important. During these meetings the student will receive advice and guidance in his/her professional development and will have the undivided attention of several faculty members simultaneously.

Three committees must be established. The student’s research advisor will serve on each committee but the composition of the committees may vary (although it is recommended that students maintain the composition of their committees as much as possible). In chronological order, the first is the Advisory Committee, the second is the Preliminary & Qualifying Exam Committee, and the third is the Dissertation Committee. The Advisory Committee will help the student develop a plan for coursework and research in the first year. The Preliminary & Qualifying Exam Committee will help the student prepare for the preliminary and qualifying exams and will administer the exams in the student's fourth semester. The student must pass these exams to advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree (see **The Preliminary and Qualifying Exams and Advancing to Candidacy**). It is recommended that the student organize his/her Preliminary & Qualifying Exam Committee as early as possible (most people do it at the beginning of their third semester) and arrange to take courses or directed readings with the faculty members. Finally, the Dissertation Committee is the group ultimately responsible for overseeing the student’s dissertation research. They will advise the student during the course of his/her research and it is important that the student keep them informed of research progress and plans through annual committee meetings.

**NOTE:** Faculty members are often under severe time constraints so students should organize their committees and meetings well in advance of the dates for the qualifying exam, thesis defense, etc.

The following is an example of how a student might organize his/her graduate studies. The nature and schedule of research in different EBE labs varies, and students should consult closely with their advisors to develop an appropriate individualized plan for their progression through the PhD.

**Year 1**

**Semester 1:** Student, in consultation with advisor, develops a plan of coursework and research.

**Semester 2:** Coursework, independent reading, regular consultation with advisor, and initial pilot research or planning for a field season as necessary to prepare the student for the first summer of research.

**Summer I:** Student begins dissertation research. Often this is a pilot study to determine the feasibility of a project or to identify potential projects. Research plans often change and therefore it is a good idea to meet with the Advisory Committee early in the following semester.

**Year 2**
Semester 3: Student forms Preliminary and Qualifying Exam Committee and meets with committee members (individually or collectively) to discuss preparation for the Qualifying Exam. Preparation may include coursework, directed readings, or other requirements with the explicit aim of developing the student's breadth and depth of knowledge in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution.

Semester 4: Student takes Preliminary and Qualifying Exams. The student is responsible for organizing the time for the Preliminary and Qualifying Exams and should make arrangements early in the semester to avoid problems with committee members' schedules. The Preliminary and Qualifying Exams should be taken by the end of semester 4 and must be taken before the start of semester 5. The exam will consist of a written examination on questions composed by the committee, followed by an oral examination with the committee members (see below).

For students in EBE, the exams will be designed to test the student's breadth and depth of knowledge in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution (and possibly other branches of biology or additional disciplines relevant to the student's research interests). It is strongly recommended that students take courses in each of these areas prior to the exam and/or organize directed readings with committee members well in advance of the Preliminary and Qualifying Exams (see below).

Summer II: Student pursues research with the explicit aim of demonstrating the feasibility and importance of the project. It is useful for the student to view their research during this summer as an opportunity to gather sufficient preliminary data for an NSF dissertation improvement grant.

Year 3

The student should have a clear plan for a feasible dissertation project and sufficient data to apply for independent research funding.

The student should present their research to the department in a seminar that includes the conceptual background, rationale, methodology, preliminary results and plans for their dissertation work. The seminar course BI579 Progress in EBE & Marine Biology is a weekly venue for all current EBE/MB graduate students to present their research to their peers once per year. All students are expected to present once per academic year and all students are required to register for the course at least once.

The student should present their research progress and plans to their Dissertation Committee in their annual committee meeting, for discussion and approval. Students should provide their committee with a written synopsis of their research progress and dissertation plans in advance of the meeting to facilitate feedback. Scheduling a committee meeting to immediately follow a seminar is efficient, but students may present their research during the
committee meeting if necessitated by scheduling constraints.

Students should apply for an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant or other independent support for their research, as appropriate to their research field. DDIG proposals are due the second Thursday of October. Students should plan well in advance to receive feedback on proposal drafts from their advisor and committee members.

**Years 4 & 5**

It is expected that students will pursue a fruitful line of research and will publish in a timely fashion. We especially encourage students to develop scholarly publications prior to completion of their dissertation. It is expected that the student will file and defend the Ph.D. dissertation by the end of the fifth year. Students should arrange the time for their dissertation defense and should submit the dissertation to committee members well in advance of the defense (two weeks or more prior to the defense).

**For current students beyond their first year in the PhD program.**

Students beginning their second year should establish their Qualifying Exam Committee, meet with their committee members early in the academic year, and prepare for Qualifying Exams in the spring semester. We expect that by the end of the academic year all second year students will have passed the Qualifying Exams and be on track with the schedule outlined above.

Third year students, if they have not already done so, should establish their Dissertation Committee immediately, develop and distribute their dissertation prospectus, and schedule a seminar and committee meeting to present and discuss the prospectus. All third year students should have passed their Qualifying Exam and presented their dissertation prospectus by the end of the Fall semester. We also encourage third year students to actively pursue grant funding for their dissertation work.

Students who are beyond the third year should already be well on track to complete their dissertation by the end of the fifth year. If they have not done so they should submit a dissertation prospectus to their committee members for feedback.

**The Preliminary Exam, Qualifying Exam and Advancing to Candidacy.**

*Preliminary Exam (2-day, 4 hours on each day, closed book)*

The exam will be comprised of individual questions compiled by the committee chair (who is not the major professor), and drawn from at least two of the following areas: ecology, behavior, and evolutionary biology (broadly defined). These areas will be decided beforehand by the committee and student.

Students will have to pass the preliminary exam to continue in the Ph.D. program. Failure to provide satisfactory answers to individual questions may be grounds for a conditional pass. Under these circumstances, students would be given a week to do additional literature research on the topic and provide a
revised answer along with requisite bibliographic support. If deemed acceptable by the committee, no further action by the student would be required.

Failure to provide satisfactory answers on either of the two sections of the exam would be considered a failing score. Students failing the first attempt at the preliminary exam would be allowed to take it a second time no sooner than 3 months after the first exam date. If a student fails to pass on their second attempt, the preliminary exam committee, the major professor, and the Department Chair will determine if the performance on the exam(s) and/or any additional work is sufficient to confer the M.A. degree.

Part 2: Qualifying Exam (2 Steps; must be completed within 9 months of passing Preliminary Exam)
Step 1: Written research proposal (8 pages single spaced, maximum)
The student, in consultation with the major professor and other committee members, submits a written proposal of the intended dissertation research one week before the oral exam.

Step 2: Oral exam (2-3 hours)
The student gives oral presentation of the proposal. The committee poses questions related to the intended research, background information, and the field of the work. The committee may also question areas perceived as the student’s weaknesses during the preliminary exam, as they pertain to the research proposal.

Advancing to Candidacy:
The student’s Qualifying Exam Committee is responsible for grading the exam. Any student failing this examination has the opportunity to take the exam again; at least three months must elapse before a student is allowed to retake the exam. Failure of the second exam is grounds for automatic dismissal from the Ph.D. program and the loss of any further financial aid, although the student may still be eligible for the M.A. degree provided that those degree requirements are met (see Option Two under Master of Arts for Ph.D. students). If at least three members of the Qualifying Exam Committee, including at least two EBE faculty members, vote that the student’s performance on the examination was at a level appropriate for an M.A. degree, and the student has completed at least 32 credits of graduate level course work, the M.A. degree is awarded.

Marine Biology Financial Assistance
Several competitive awards are available to graduate students performing research in Marine Biology in addition to the Financial Assistance available generally to graduate students in the Department of Biology. These include:

Warren McLeod Fellowships – provides either a summer stipend support or a single year of support. The award is competitive and based on written proposals. Eligibility: PhD students who have passed the qualifying exam.

Dana Wright Fellowship – supports summer research in Marine Biology. It may be used for stipend support (up to 4 months), research supplies, and/or travel expenses related to research. The award is competitive and based on written
NEUROBIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Program in Neurobiology offers courses and research opportunities in areas of contemporary neurobiology, including: neurotransmission and synaptic plasticity, molecular neurobiology, genetic and hormonal control of neural development, sensory physiology, retinal and cortical circuitry and neurochemistry, olfactory processing, traumatic brain injury, and the neuroendocrine control of behavior. The organisms under investigation include crayfish, lobster, zebra finch, rat, and mouse. Biology faculty members also participate in the interdepartmental Ph.D. Graduate Program in Neuroscience (GPN).

Requirements for Neurobiology (NEURO) Candidates in the Ph.D. Program
Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellular and Systems Neuroscience (BI 755)</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience (BI 756)</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar Series in Neuroscience (NE 500/NE 501)</td>
<td>2 cr./2 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: 5 courses</td>
<td>20 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research courses:</td>
<td>32 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS:</td>
<td>64 cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The elective courses should be chosen in consultation with the faculty advisor. It is STRONGLY recommended that at least one of the elective courses be a relevant graduate laboratory course.
Seminar
Students must participate in the weekly NEURO seminar program (NE 500) that meets at 9:30 AM on Fridays, and a number of optional lectures and colloquia. They are not required to attend the journal club associated with NE500/501.

Lab Rotations
Students are required to perform at least two laboratory rotations with Neurobiology faculty during their first academic year (6-8 weeks each).

Examinations/Defenses

Qualifying Examinations
Students beginning their second year should establish their Qualifying Exam Committee, meet with their committee members early in the academic year, and prepare for their Qualifying Exam. We expect that by the end of the second academic year all students will have passed their Qualifying Exam. The qualifying examination must be passed for the Ph.D. degree. Once the student has passed this exam, she/he is formally a candidate for the Ph.D. in the NEURO program.

The qualifying examination consists of two parts; one, a written research proposal and two, the oral defense of this research proposal.

• Written Proposal. The student, in consultation with the research advisor and other parties, submits a WRITTEN proposal of the intended dissertation research. The academic code of conduct applies, and the written document should be from the student’s own hand, not just cutting and pasting old grant proposals, papers, etc. The major professor may have input in the form of suggestions on content and organization, but should not directly edit the document. This proposal should be written in the form of an NRSA F31 NIH grant proposal, and it should include a list of specific aims, an extensive introduction and an outline of the intended experiments with necessary preliminary data, complete with appropriately cited literature. The proposal should be approximately 10-15 pages long, double-spaced. The written proposal must be given to and approved by the qualifying examination committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled examination.

• Oral Exam. At the examination, the student gives an oral presentation of the proposal, including preliminary results. The committee then poses questions related to the intended research, background information, and the field of the work. The committee may also question areas perceived as the student’s weaknesses during the preliminary exam, but only as they pertain to the research proposal. The committee chair ensures that the questions are and that each committee member has a more-or-less equal opportunity to question the student.

While this proposal and oral defense is normally on research the student plans to carry out, it is not a thesis defense. Thus, the eventual dissertation work may change considerably over time.

M.A.
Coursework

Cellular and Systems Neuroscience (BI755) 4 cr.
Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience (BI756) 4 cr.
Graduate Seminar Series in Neuroscience (NE 500/NE 501) 2 cr./2 cr.
Electives: 5 courses 20 cr.
TOTAL CREDITS: 32 cr.

The elective courses should be chosen in consultation with the faculty advisor. It is STRONGLY recommended that at least one of the elective courses be a relevant graduate laboratory course.

For those doing a research master’s, 12 credits can come from research courses.

BIOLOGY AND RELATED COURSES APPROVED FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 502</td>
<td>Comp Perspect Biol Sys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 503</td>
<td>Symbiosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 504</td>
<td>Advanced Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 505</td>
<td>Evolution and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 506</td>
<td>Phenotypic Plasticity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 508</td>
<td>Behavioral Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 512</td>
<td>Mammalian Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 513</td>
<td>Genetics Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 515</td>
<td>Population Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 519</td>
<td>Theoretical Evolutionary Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 520</td>
<td>Sensory Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI/GE 523</td>
<td>Urban Marine Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 527</td>
<td>Biochemistry Lab I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 528</td>
<td>Biochemistry Lab II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 530</td>
<td>Forest Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 531</td>
<td>Ichthyology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 532</td>
<td>Ichthyology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 536</td>
<td>Molecular Ecology and Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI/ES 539</td>
<td>Coral Reef Dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 545</td>
<td>Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 547</td>
<td>Marine Invert: Natural History and Mol Phylogeny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 549</td>
<td>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 550</td>
<td>Marine Genomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 551</td>
<td>Stem Cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 552</td>
<td>Molecular Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 553</td>
<td>Molecular Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 554</td>
<td>Neuroendocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 556</td>
<td>Membrane Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI/ES 558</td>
<td>Coastal Nutrient Cycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 569</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Invertebrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 572</td>
<td>Advanced Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 575</td>
<td>Tech in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 576</td>
<td>Carcinogenesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS BI 579</td>
<td>Progress in EBE and Marine Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consult recent GRS catalogue for listing of research courses and for other related courses available in cognate departments.
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CHARLES RIVER CAMPUS BUILDINGS

Emergencies

In case of emergencies at 2 Cummington Mall building services (heat, electricity, water, refrigeration, air-conditioning, etc.), call Tom Symancyk, Materials Manager, at x3-2467. If Tom is unavailable call the building supervisor Dennis Batista 358-4282. If Dennis is not available, call the Buildings and Grounds Emergency number 353-2105. In case of emergencies at 5 and 24 Cummington Mall, contact Dennis Batista 358-4282. If Dennis is not available, contact Peter Castellano 353-8736.

In case of emergencies posing threat to health or safety (chemical spills, etc.), contact Director of Environmental Health and Safety, at 353-9734, or for immediate assistance, contact Campus Police at 353-2121.

First Aid

To report an accident or emergency dial 353-2121 (Campus Police). They will send a police officer to evaluate the situation and to determine what action should be taken. Later you should contact Sara Martin in the Biology Office to file the required Accident Report Form.

Building Hours and Security Procedures

Main doors to 2, 5, Cummington Mall and 590 Commonwealth Avenue will be unlocked from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admittance is possible 24 hours a day (including weekends). For after hour access, contact Maddy Davis or Kelly McGuire in BRB 101. Main doors to 24 Cummington Mall will be unlocked from 6am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. After hour access at 24 Cummington Mall is coordinated by Peter Castellano in LSE 602.

At 5 Cummington Mall, your office key will open most common spaces. At 2, 5 & 24 Cummington Mall, as well as 590 Commonwealth Avenue, there is a swipe card reader to open the front door after hours.

All keys for BSC, BRB, and SCI are distributed by Front Desk Staff in BRB 101. You will need to complete and return a “Key Request Form” with your advisor’s signature, as well as $5.00 deposit. Check the number on the door locks/cores.

All keys for LSE are distributed by Peter Castellano in LSE 602 or Tom Symancyk in LSE 107.

Department Facilities

All persons using departmental facilities must arrange for their use through the staff or faculty member responsible for the facility. Persons using the facility must be checked out before use by the responsible staff member and must familiarize themselves with the regulations governing its use and maintenance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquarium Room</td>
<td>BRB25</td>
<td>Justin Scace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Media Center</td>
<td>LSE 602</td>
<td>Peter Castellano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confocal Imaging Facility</td>
<td>LSE 448</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Van</td>
<td>LSE 107</td>
<td>Tom Symancyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA Chip Reader Facility</td>
<td>LSE 444</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA Sequencing Facility</td>
<td>BRB 519</td>
<td>Michael Sorenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging and Proteomics Core Facility</td>
<td>LSE 449</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverted Fluorescence Microscope</td>
<td>LSE 617</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Animal Care Facility</td>
<td>SCI 427</td>
<td>Beverly Keniston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>SCI 401</td>
<td>Dale Pasino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Labs</td>
<td>BRB B25</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes darkrooms)</td>
<td>SCI 423A</td>
<td>Richard Primack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phytotron Facility</td>
<td>BRB 508</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real time Quantitative PCR &amp; Phosphorimager</td>
<td>LSE 632</td>
<td>Todd Blute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer Facility</td>
<td>BRB 440</td>
<td>Robert Michener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue Culture Facilities</td>
<td>LSE 312</td>
<td>Tom Gilmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>BRB B19</td>
<td>Jonathan Perry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT POLICIES**

**Mail**

Graduate student mailboxes are located in the corridor outside BRB 101. They are set up alphabetically. The combinations and box number assignments can be obtained from Front Desk Staff in BRB 101.

The Boston University Postal Service picks up federal and interdepartmental mail from the mailroom once a day. The BU Postal Service sorts this mail into interdepartmental and U.S. Mail, so please make sure that interdepartmental mail is in manila envelopes and clearly marked. If you must use a white envelope for interdepartmental mail it should be clearly marked or it will be sorted into the US Mail and charged back to the Department. It will also take a long time for this mail to arrive at its destination as it will be sent outside the University and then returned to go once again through the BU Postal Service. **This is intended for Department and University business and not for personal mail. Any personal mail must have a postage stamp affixed before being placed in this bin.**

**Facsimile Machine (FAX)**

The Department has a FAX machine located in BRB 101 that is available for general departmental use. FAX machines are quite simple to use; nevertheless, see Front Desk Staff for assistance if you need any help. Since FAX machines operate over telephone wires, all charges associated with its use will appear on a phone statement. The Department covers the cost of all local Fax’s. All long-
distance Fax’s must be charged to your professor's telephone code. You must make your own arrangements with your advisor about using his or her telephone code to make these calls.

Your incoming FAX messages will be placed in your mailbox.

**Photocopying Procedures and Policies**

There are three copying machines within the Department available for general use.

In 5 Cummington Mall, BRB 101C, there is a large Canon copier. This room can be accessed from the corridor at any time. The key that opens all common spaces also opens this room. This copier can be used by buying a copying-code.

Please keep in mind:

- Large jobs should not be copied between 9 am and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday;
- Faculty and staff have priority at the copying machines;
- If you have questions about how to use either machine please see Front Desk Staff in BRB 101.

The Biology Department will pay only for photocopying needed for a course in which the graduate student is a teaching fellow. If the photocopying pertains to a grant, you may be able to charge the grant. The student must pay for any other copying.

If you plan on using the Canon copy machine, it is recommended that you purchase a copy code. Payment may be in cash, but checks are preferred. Codes may be purchased from Rich Rigolini in BRB 101, Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm in counts of 500 copies for $30 or 1000 copies for $60.

**Computers**

The University has a multi-user UNIX computer called ACS (Academic Computing System) that you can access to read email, word processing, etc., by way of public terminals or personal computers. Public terminals can be found throughout the campus. The largest terminal room is located on the first floor of the Mugar Library, 771 Commonwealth Avenue.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers a file server (casfsb.bu.edu) to all faculty, staff, and students to back up and share their data. To establish a folder on this server, go to http://cashelp.bu.edu, click on “File Servers” and follow the instructions.

Many students choose to bring their own personal computers into their office or labs. There are limited Ethernet connections within the department for Internet access. Check with your advisor for more information about ethernet port availability in your office. A laptop lock is highly recommended.

Wireless on campus is available in most academic buildings, but signal strength
can vary floor to floor, building to building. To join the BU wireless network, you will need to accept the certificate for the secured and encrypted 802.1x security protocol with your user login and kerberos password. For more information on how to join the wireless network, go to http://www.bu.edu/tech/accounts/wireless/ or stop by one of the IT Help centers at Mugar Library, 771 Commonwealth Ave. or the main Help Center in Kenmore Square at 533 Commonwealth Ave. (next to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore).

**Getting a BU Email Account**

All new students will be provisioned with a BU Google Apps account and can log in to it at www.bu.edu/google or www.bu.edu/webmail. You can enable this account by following the instructions on http://www.bu.edu/tech/support/google/enable/

If you have an existing email account that you prefer to use, you can forward your BU email using the Settings menu within BU Google Mail. Please note that all departmental communication will be sent to your BU email address.

**Getting on Biology Email Aliases**

Once you have an ACS account, you will automatically be added to the all-department alias ("bio-dept-list@bu.edu") and the graduate student alias ("bio-grad-students-list@bu.edu") for the Biology Department. We have five additional aliases for the individual groups (bio-grad-cm-list@bu.edu", "bio-grad-ebe-list@bu.edu, etc.). To subscribe to one of these lists, you will need to complete the Graduate Student Information Form and return it to Meredith Canode.

**Using the Departmental Laser Printers**

There are several networked printers throughout the various biology buildings. For information on how to connect to these printers, see the front office in Biology for printers in 5 Cummington Mall, or Peter Castellano for access to printers in 24 Cummington Mall.

The main networked printer in 5 Cummington Mall is a "HP LaserJet 4050 Series", located in BRB 101C. You can connect to this printer via its IP address, 128.197.80.190.

**The Biology Media Center**

The Biology Media Center in room 627 of 24 Cummington Mall provides a range of media services to the department for little or no cost. Available services are flatbed scanning, slide scanning, color laser printing, di-sub printing (photo-like prints) and large format poster printing.

These facilities operate on both Mac and Windows platforms in order to handle the varied media formats.

Due to the popularity of the media center, there is a "reservation" policy. If you
need to use the media center services, you should contact Peter Castellano via e-mail at pcastell@bu.edu, or telephone at 353-8736 to reserve a time to use the equipment.

To facilitate the availability of these graphics resources, the associated computers are to be used only for departmental-related purposes and not for general use or e-mail.

**Memos and Announcements**

Memos and announcements will be sent to you via electronic mail. Also check the easel outside of BRB 101 for announcements.

**Reimbursement Procedures and Policies**

Supplies, and other expenses incurred that are course or grant related, will be reimbursed if the proper procedures are followed. Reimbursements can be either cash or check depending upon the amount and the nature of the expense. To process a reimbursement, please see Barbara Caloggero in BRB 101.

A **CASH** reimbursement will be made under the following conditions:

- Supplies needed are of an emergency nature.
- Supplies not normally secured through the stockroom, at 24 Cummington Mall.
- An original receipt is given for each reimbursement.
- The receipt is under $10.00.

Petty cash is limited to two receipts per day for each account and cannot be used for personal advances (IOU's) or for entertainment purposes. University policy does not allow reimbursement for taxes paid. If the expense incurred does not fit the above criteria a check reimbursement will be made. A reimbursement form must be filled out completely or there will be a delay in processing. It usually takes two to six weeks once the form is received for a check to be issued.

If the supply has already been purchased and paid for, a check will be issued to you. If you have an invoice from the vendor a check will be sent directly to the vendor. Only original receipts or invoices will be accepted. Invoices must name Boston University and provide some detail of what goods and services were provided. We are unable to process altered invoices or receipts. A reimbursement form, available from Barbara Caloggero in BRB 101, must be filled out for all reimbursement requests.

**Travel**

A reimbursement form may also be used for travel advances and other travel-related expenses. See Financial Administrator, Rich Rigolini, in BRB 101.

**Travel Advance**
Advances will not be issued if the traveler has not fully accounted for a previous trip with a Travel Expense Report or a requisition for any fare advance.

Advances cannot be issued more than two weeks prior to departure. If the requested advance exceeds $1500, a detailed itinerary is required. Only one advance can be issued per trip. If registration or reservation fees must be paid in advance, request an Accounts Payable Request Voucher to make direct payment.

A travel advance will not be issued for a traveler to pay for airline tickets. Requisitions are used for airfare advances and are paid directly to the travel agent. Advances cannot be issued for airfare from sources other than University travel agents. (See the Stockroom regarding requisitions.)

**Clearing a Travel Advance and Travel Reports**

A travel report must be submitted one week after the conclusion of a trip. Reports must have original receipts for all expenses. Copies of receipts are not accepted. Meal expenses must be reported per meal, per day. Registration and Reservation Fees paid directly to the vendor should not be included in the report.

Reports that result in a payment due the University must be accompanied by a check or money order only (no cash). For example, if a travel advance was issued for $500 and only $300 was needed, a check must be made out to the University for the difference.

Airfare advances paid directly to University travel agents must be included in the travel report. Airfare advances are considered to be the same as cash advances by the University. Passenger coupons (receipts) or unused tickets must be submitted with a travel report.

The use of a personal car can only be reimbursed for the mileage at the University mileage reimbursement rate (currently .575 cents per mile). Receipts for gasoline purchase cannot be accepted for personal car use; gasoline receipts are acceptable for car rentals or for a University vehicle.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT GUIDELINES**

The Department of Biology expects that the learning and work environment will be free of sexual harassment, including unprofessional conduct in faculty-student relationships and sexism in the classroom. Sexual harassment is an abuse of authority. Such behavior is unacceptable, and serves as a barrier to the educational, scholarly, and research goals of the University. The faculty in the Department of Biology adopted the following guidelines:

- Professors, teaching fellows, or undergraduate assistants may not date a student in their class, laboratory section, or discussion section until the final grade has been given. A teaching fellow already dating a student in his/her sections cannot be responsible for the grade of the student.

- Professors should avoid dating members of their laboratory (i.e., graduate students, technicians, or postdoctoral fellows). If such a relationship exists,
the member of the lab should consider and/or be advised to change labs. If the student remains in the lab, the professor must excuse him or herself as an official member of all evaluating committees (e.g., qualifying and defense committees) for the student, and can only serve as an ad hoc non-voting member of the committees. Remember that although both parties may initially consent to this relationship, it is only the professor, by virtue of his/her special responsibility, who is held accountable for unprofessional behavior.

- A professor dating a graduate student from another laboratory must excuse him or herself from all evaluating committees (e.g., qualifying and defense committees) for the student.

- Do not touch a student, technician, or postdoctoral fellow except with the universally accepted handshake. Hugs, kisses, high-fives, or slaps on different regions of the body may be acceptable in American culture, but may be interpreted in unintended ways by students of other cultures.

- When meeting alone with a student, keep your door open if possible.

- Do not invite a student to your home when you and the student would be alone. Try to include more than one member of the class in all social occasions.

- Inappropriate sexual comments in classrooms, laboratory sessions, or discussion sessions are not acceptable. Inappropriate messages may be subtle and even unintentional, but nevertheless these comments compromise the learning experience of the students.

- When hanging material on doors or walls, be sensitive to other people's feelings.

Remember, sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is illegal under the Civil Rights Act. Students, fellows, or faculty who think that they are being sexually harassed are encouraged to speak in confidence with Michael Sorenson, chair of the Biology Department; Kim McCall, Director of Graduate Studies in the Biology Department; Eric Widmaier, Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Biology Department; and/or Edward Loechler, chair of the Ad hoc Sexual Harassment Committee in the Biology Department.

**Title IX & BU Policies**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Sex-based discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. The law covers sex-based discrimination against students, faculty, and staff.

Persons seeking to file a complaint should contact:
- Dean of Students Office | 617-353-4126
- Title IX Coordinator Kim Randall | krandall@bu.edu | 617-353-9286
- Boston University Police Department | 617-353-2121
Compliance

Each student, admitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, is responsible for becoming familiar with the general regulations of the Graduate School as stated in the “Policies” section of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Bulletin and with the more specific requirements stated in the individual section on each department, division, or program which may go beyond, or supplement, the Graduate School standards.

If necessary, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences staff is available to interpret or clarify any rule or regulation.

Boston University does not permit a student to enroll simultaneously in more than one graduate program either within Boston University or at another institution, unless those programs have been previously approved by the Trustees of Boston University as a combined degree program.

In order to register:

• Boston University requires all students studying on Massachusetts campuses to provide a BUAlert phone number.
• Boston University requires all students to Settle their Financial Obligation each semester.
• Massachusetts law requires that all full-time and many part-time students be Immunized against a number of diseases in order to attend a university in the Commonwealth.
• The Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Law requires that all out-of-state students sign an acknowledgement that they have been informed of the law. (Compliance required in the Fall semester only)

Check the Student Link to ensure you have met these requirements. Students not in compliance will be unable to register for future semesters.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The GRS policy is that financial aid awarded by Boston University may be used only for courses required by the degree program. It may be used for courses taken as co-requisites or prerequisites by special permission from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. It may not be used for the Sports Pass, subway/bus passes, library fines or late fees. Graduate School of Arts & Sciences financial aid does not cover the cost of audited courses for Master’s students. For Ph.D. students, tuition for an audited course will be covered by scholarship if the course is approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. This course must be related to the dissertation research, or be considered as background or preparation for the dissertation research or topic. 900-level courses may not be audited.

Financial Aid may not exceed the cost of required tuition, fees and living expenses.
Master’s Students:

Master’s students are expected to pay their own tuition. On occasion when teaching positions for the Department of Biology are available, Master’s students may apply within the department for a Teaching Assistantship (TA). These positions consist of a 20-hour per week commitment and provide $6,000 per semester paid on a weekly basis.

Students involved in active research should speak to their advisor before accepting a TA position. If interested in potential TA opportunities, please send your CV – including courses taken – to Meredith Canode mcanode@bu.edu.

In addition to potential TA positions, the following options may help assist Master’s students in financing their graduate education:

- **The Student Employment Office**
  The Student Employment Office works with currently enrolled students to assist them in their on-campus employment endeavors, through the Job Board and Quickie Job Services. Student Employment also assists students with the Payroll process.
- **Federal Work Study**
- **Federal Stafford Loans**
- **Credit Based Loans (Federal PLUS & Private)**

Please contact grsaid@bu.edu for questions about financial aid options for Master’s students.

Ph.D. Students

Ph.D. students in the CM and Neuro programs are guaranteed 12 months a year of stipend support and tuition for 5 years provided they make satisfactory progress towards their degree and remain in good academic standing. EBE and Marine Biology students are guaranteed tuition and 10 months per year of stipend support provided they remain in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress towards their degree. Most EBE and Marine Biology students are supported 12 months of the year. In an extremely rare case, a student failing to meet these requirements and at risk of losing funding will be notified well in advance.

Ph.D. students are encouraged to apply for fellowships and grants at funding agencies. All domestic first-year students apply for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships in the Fall semester.

**Dean’s Fellowships (DF):** Ph.D. students are funded on Dean’s Fellowships in their first semester. Dean’s Fellowships, and other fellowships such as MLK Fellowships, NIH NRSA traineeships, etc. are paid monthly on the 4th Friday of the month.

Domestic students on fellowships will not have taxes withheld by the University; however, students are still required to report their stipend to the IRS and pay taxes, if applicable. International students will be taxed at a rate of 14% unless their government has a tax treaty with the U.S. For more information on tax
exemption for international students, refer to the Student Employment Office website:  http://www.bu.edu/seo/students/taxes/taxes-international/

**Teaching Fellowships (TF):** Ph.D. students are funded by teaching fellowships for a minimum of 2 semesters of their graduate career. Teaching Fellowships are a 20-hour per week commitment and students receive training for these positions. Typically students are responsible for 2 lab sections or 3-4 discussion sections. Students are expected to honor their commitments to the responsibility of teaching. Students will receive feedback on their teaching performance and students are encouraged to review their teaching evaluations. Students that do not honor their responsibilities as a TF or who ignore issues with performance are subject to losing future TF opportunities, which could affect funding. TFs are paid on a weekly basis.

**Research Assistantships (RA):** Ph.D. students funded on a research grant by their advisor are on Research Assistantships. RAs are expected to coordinate expectations of research with their faculty advisor. RA positions pay on a weekly basis.

**Direct Deposit:** all students are encouraged to set up Direct Deposit by going to the Student Link under the Work tab. Students who have not set up Direct Deposit before the first payroll run in mid-September will have to pick up their stipend checks at the Student Payroll Office, 881 Commonwealth Ave, 2nd Floor.

**STUDENT GROUPS**

**Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA):** An organization comprised of graduate students within the Department of Biology and MCBB programs dedicated to increasing the level of academic, scientific, and professional integration between the four program areas in the Department of Biology through academic and recreational activities. These four program areas are: Cell and Molecular Biology (CM/MCBB), Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution (EBE), Marine Biology (BUMP), Neurobiology (NEURO. bgsa@bu.edu

**Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (GWISE):** A community to support and promote women in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Through professional development seminars and workshops, social events, mentoring, and outreach, GWISE fosters interaction across disciplines at Boston University and connects graduate students to postdocs, faculty, and broader networks in Boston and beyond. GWISE is open to men and women. Groups within GWISE consist of accountability groups for thesis writing, book club, coffee groups, intramural sports, mothers’ group, yoga and WISE guys, a program to increase the participation and engagement of men in GWISE. http://www.bu.edu/gwise/

**Emergency Resources**

Boston University has many resources on campus to support personal and academic wellness.
Emergencies

In case of a medical emergency, Student Health Services and/or the University Police will help in managing the emergency quickly and effectively. Call the Boston University Police at 617-353-2121 (3-2121 on a campus phone) or 911 if you have a life-threatening emergency. True medical emergencies are transported by ambulance to local hospital emergency departments. Boston University Student Health Services will call to follow up on your emergency and will help in arranging additional care when needed.

- Emergency
- 617-353-2121 BU Police
- 911 if life-threatening
- Student Health Services 617-353-3575
- Sexual Assault 617-353-SARP (7277)
- Behavioral Medicine 617-353-3569
- Boston University Police 617-353-2121
- Ambulance 617-353-2121
- Fire 617-353-2121
- Poison Control Center 617-232-2120
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 617-492-RAPE 1-800-841-8371

Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation for Full-Time PhD Students

Please find the official University policy here:

http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/childbirth-and-adoption-accommodation/

The childbirth and adoption accommodation policy for full-time or certified full-time PhD students in good academic standing provides for extensions for academic coursework and other requirements to the primary caregiver of an infant or adopted child. It also provides for a continuation of stipend support for funded students during the accommodation period.

A GRS full-time or certified full-time PhD student taking an accommodation due to the birth of a child should notify the relevant department Chair or Program Director in writing no later than 30 days prior to the start of the semester during which the birth is expected using the procedures described below. In the case of adoption, notification should be made once the student becomes reasonably certain of the expected dates of adoption.

Notification Procedures:
Students have two options for notifying the relevant offices:
1) By email:
• Please include the following information in an email with the subject: “GRS Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation” to your department Chair or Program Director, copying your Director of Graduate Studies, the GRS Director of Admissions & Financial Aid at grsaid@bu.edu, and if a research assistant, the Principal Investigator of the research project on which you are working:
  o Your name
  o BU ID number
  o Program
  o Expected date of birth or adoption
  o The start and end dates of the 60-day accommodation period if known, or approximate dates if not
• The Chair or Program Director must acknowledge receipt of this email via a reply to all parties initially included.
• If you are expecting to be a Teaching Fellow during the semester in which you take the accommodation, this must be discussed with your department/program and GRS Financial Aid; if you are expecting to be a Research Assistant, the details surrounding the accommodation must be determined at the department/program level.

2) By form:

• Please complete a notification form from the GRS website, obtain the necessary signatures, and submit to the GRS office – 112 College of Arts & Sciences Building.

Health Resources

Student Health Services
881 Commonwealth Avenue
617-353-3575
Center that meets student health care needs while at Boston University. Includes Primary Care, Sports Medicine, and Behavioral Medicine service by appointment or on an emergency basis, and Crisis Intervention Counselors. Department of Wellness & Prevention Services, which includes Alcohol and Other Drug evaluation and education, as well as general health education. The Athletic Training Services Department at Boston University is a part of the SHS family. SHS is here to help address immediate and ongoing health care needs.

You may use Student Health Services if you meet one of the following criteria:
1. A full-time BU student, regardless of your insurance choice.
2. A student who participates in at least 9 credit hours.
3. A student with the Student Health Insurance Plan.
**Dental Care**

Students in need of dental care are referred by Student Health Services to qualified local dentists. Students are responsible for dental charges.

Students may enroll in a preventive dental plan available from the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine by calling 617-638-4700.

In addition, Aetna Student offers a Dental Discount Program to Boston University students.

**The Danielsen Institute**
185 Bay State Road
617-353-3047
The Danielsen Institute offers a variety of psychological services, including individual, group, family, and couples therapy, as well as psychological testing and assessment for adults, adolescents, and children. Many insurance plans, including Boston University’s Aetna Student Health Plan, can be used to cover a portion of applicable fees, and a sliding fee scale is also available.

**The Center for Anxiety & Related Disorders (CARD)**
648 Beacon Street, 6th Floor
617-353-9610
The CARD offers treatment for a variety of anxiety disorders, including panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, phobias, and eating disorders. Fees are based on a sliding scale, and some treatment associated with research studies may be free of charge.

**The BU Psychological Services Center (PSC) at CARD**
648 Beacon Street, 6th Floor
617-353-9610
The PSC offers structured, symptom-focused, empirically validated treatments, including stress management, relaxation training, assertiveness training, anger management, and treatment for problems such as adjustment disorders, test or performance anxiety, difficulties in attention and concentration, and insomnia. The PSC provides a thorough initial intake interview to determine the nature and extent of emotional problems as well as a neuropsychological assessment of attentional and cognitive/learning impairment. Fees are based on a low sliding scale. The PSC exclusively treats BU students, staff, and faculty. All treatment is provided by PhD graduate students under the close supervision of licensed psychologists.

**Student Life Resources**

**Office of the University Ombuds**
19 Deerfield Street, Suite 203
(617) 358-5960 | ombuds@bu.edu
The Boston University Office of the Ombuds is an independent, impartial, informal, and confidential resource available to all members of the Boston University community. Confidentiality, one of the fundamental principles of the office, is essential to Ombuds practice. The Office provides a safe place to have off-the-record conversations about any kind of problem related to life at BU. Talking to the Ombuds can be a good first step to resolving problems, especially if you are concerned about confidentiality or don’t know where to turn for assistance.

**International Students and Scholars Office**
www.bu.edu/isco/
888 Commonwealth Avenue
617-353-3565 | isso@bu.edu
The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is a resource for professional expertise on immigration and employment, and help ensure student, scholar, and institutional compliance with federal regulations. ISSO staff are available to guide students and scholars through the often complicated requirements for foreign nationals studying and working in the United States.

**Office of Family Resources**
www.bu.edu/family
985 Commonwealth Avenue
617-353-5954 | chippie@bu.edu
The Office of Family Resources is committed to helping families manage the challenges of work life and family life and provides many resources and services to support families of the Boston University community. Resources and services available include:
- Referral service and resource materials for parents seeking childcare
- Information about how to find Boston University students interested in babysitting
- Educational programs co-sponsored with the Faculty/Staff Assistance Office
- School vacation programs for children in Kindergarten through fourth grade during the February and April school vacation weeks
- Recreational summer camp program for children entering Kindergarten through fourth grade during summer school vacation weeks
- Elder care resource materials

**Fitness & Recreation Center | Physical Education, Recreation & Dance**
915 Commonwealth Avenue
617-353-2748 | fitrec@bu.edu
All full-time graduate students receive free membership to the FitRec. The Fitness & Recreation Center offers a variety of state-of-the-art facilities, including an 18,000-square-foot weight and cardio room, two swimming pools, racquetball and squash courts, two multi-use gymnasiums, an elevated jogging track, a 35’ climbing wall, a Pro Shop, and the Healthy Blends Café. Physical Education, Recreation & Dance offers for-credit and non-credit classes in everything from fitness to climbing to martial arts. The department also coordinates all intramural and club sports programs.

**Educational Resource Center**
100 Bay State Road, 6th Floor
617-353-7077 | http://blogs.bu.edu/erc/
The Educational Resource Center provides academic support programs to the University community, including peer tutoring, the Writing Center, Language Link conversation groups, and various workshops. These services are available free of charge.

**BU Parking and Transportation Services**

1019 Commonwealth Avenue  
617-353-2160 | http://www.bu.edu/parking/

**Boston University Parking & Transportation** office provides students, staff, and faculty information on various ways to travel in and around Boston. This office provides information on: Parking permits, parking lots and locations, parking regulations and towing, weather related emergencies, the BU Bus, rideshare, bike safety, zip car, and MBTA (the “T”) passes and transportation.

**BU BUS**

The Boston University Shuttle (the BUS), is an inter-campus shuttle service with 11 stops between the Charles River Campus and the BU Medical Campus. BU ID is needed to board.

During the academic year, the BUS operates every 15 minutes (7AM – 10AM & 4PM – 7PM) Mondays – Thursdays, and every 20 minutes on Fridays. The BUS provides 30-minute off-peak service from 7AM until 11PM.

During the summer, the BUS runs every 30 minutes between 7AM and 11PM. More information about the BUS service is available online.

Evening & Weekend Shuttle provides service 7 days a week during the evening and early morning hours. The shuttle, which runs until 2:00AM Sunday-Wednesday and 4:00AM Thursday-Saturday, is intended to provide the Boston University community with convenient transportation exclusively throughout the Charles River Campus.

**The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism**

775 Commonwealth Avenue, Lower Level  
617-358-5575 | cgsa@bu.edu

The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism (CGSA) strives to be a safe space for people of all genders and sexualities. Using a social justice framework, the CGSA aims to end gender oppression and violence, and advocates for the full equality and inclusion of women, queer and trans students. This dynamic community fosters challenging and open discourse, promotes student activism, and provides resources and education for the Boston University Community.

**Chaplains**

735 Commonwealth Avenue  
617-353-3560 | chapel@bu.edu

A variety of chaplains are available to all students, regardless of religious affiliation. Appointments can be scheduled, or students can visit the chapel office on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
The University Service Center (USC)
881 Commonwealth Avenue
617-358-1818 | usc@bu.edu
The USC is an excellent starting point for anyone unsure of where to turn for help. The staff will point you in the right direction, or—if your concern is complex, multilayered, or involves multiple offices—help you figure out the best way to address the situation.

Disability Services
19 Deerfield Street, 2nd Floor
617-353-3658 | access@bu.edu
Disability Services provides services and support to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in the opportunities available at Boston University. Disability Services also employs students as note-takers, readers, and in other positions assisting disabled students.

The Howard Thurman Center
775 Commonwealth Avenue, Lower Level
617-353-4745 | thurman@bu.edu
The Howard Thurman Center is Boston University’s center for cultural learning and collaboration. Through a variety of workshops, programs, and celebrations, the Howard Thurman Center aims to build community by eliminating barriers of divisiveness that separate individuals, groups, races, cultures, religions, and ethnicities.

Judicial Affairs
19 Deerfield Street, 3rd Floor
617-358-0700 | dos@bu.edu
The Judicial Affairs office and student safety programs serve as the primary administrators of the Code of Student Responsibilities and also provide information and resources to the University community regarding personal safety on and off campus.

Boston University Police Department
32 Harry Agganis Way
617-353-2121 | Anonymous Tip Line: Text the BUPD at tip411 (847411) and type BU <space> your message
The Boston University Police Department is a full-time, professional law enforcement agency that also provides a wide variety of public services, including emergency medical response, Rape Aggression Defense classes, and laptop and bicycle registration. Through the community policing program, officers are assigned to various areas of campus to work closely with the community in addressing crime and crime prevention, as well as social issues, which directly affect the quality of life at Boston University.

Environmental Health & Safety
704 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor
617-353-4094 | oehs@bu.edu
Environmental Health & Safety provides a full range of environmental, health, and safety services to the University community. These services include, but are not limited to, fire and life safety programs and support of the University’s
recycling program.

**Dean of Students**
775 Commonwealth Avenue, 3rd Floor
617-353-4126 | dos@bu.edu
The mission of the Dean of Students office and the Division of Student Affairs is to enhance the quality, character, and perspectives of our students. Through its many orientation, mentoring, and counseling programs, the division promotes an environment that encourages intellectual exchange and individual expression. The dean of students has an open-door policy and is available to all students by appointment.

**Career Resources**

**Center for Career Development**
100 Bay State Road, 6th Floor
617-353-3590 | future@bu.edu
The Center for Career Development can assist students in choosing a major, finding an internship, or preparing for their post-college job search. Services include workshops, job and internship fairs, résumé review, mock interviews, and career assessment tools.

**BU Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST):**
www.bu.edu/BEST
Twitter @BUs_BEST
Program Director, Chelsea Epler: crepler@bu.edu
Supported by the National Institutes of Health, BU’s BEST facilitates biomedical career development curriculum for PhD and postdoctoral trainees in a way that explores careers both in and outside of standard academic research. BU’s BEST program is open to all biomedical graduate and postdoctoral trainees at Boston University.

**Propel Careers:**
Lauren Celano, Co-founder and CEO
http://www.propelcareers.com/
Propel Careers is a Boston based life sciences search and career development firm dedicated to networking, mentoring and career development. Propel focuses on placement into full time, project based, and internship roles in areas including research, clinical, regulatory, commercial, informatics, finance, business, development, legal, and operations.

**LinkedIn:** Connect with Meredith Canode on LinkedIn to interact with our alumni community. There are over 120 alumni available for informational interviews and general networking questions.

**Other useful links for job-seekers:**
www.nature.com/naturejobs
www.higheredjobs.com
sciencecareers.sciencemag.us
www.bu.edu/careers
NOTES

www.bu.edu/cas/graduate/

Where you can locate a copy of the most recent Graduate School bulletins online, as well as information regarding the graduate school.

www.bu.edu/studentlink/

Once you have set up and obtain your ACS email account, the Office of Information Technology can provide you with locations of available computer labs (or you can use your own laptop or home computer) to access the above student link to update your local and billing addresses, view your class schedule and student account, waive medical insurance and see whatever information pertinent to your stay here at Boston University.

www.bu.edu/biology/
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