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Students have six years to complete their requirements.

All students attend the cancer biology PhD program on a full-time basis. We allow students a maximum of six years to complete all requirements for the PhD degree.

Satisfactory completion of the Core Course (with a GPA of 3.0 or better), first-year journal clubs and seminars, and laboratory rotations are evaluated at the end of the first year of the program.

Thesis Proposal

By April 15 of the second year of the program, students must present their thesis proposals. The thesis proposal consists of a written and oral presentation based on the thesis work that the student has already begun. This presentation gives students an

opportunity to organize their thoughts and plans for the dissertation project, and allows mentors and the Advisory Committee to assess the students' scientific progress.

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are automatically advanced to candidacy after the successful presentation of their thesis proposals. Each student must successfully complete both the written and oral components of the presentation before being advanced to candidacy.

Presenting and Defending the Dissertation

Ultimately, our students must pursue a research project under the supervision of their mentors, which results in a dissertation that reports new findings. Once completed, the dissertation is presented and defended.

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