

**IBMS 7001-3CB  
Qualifying Exam**

**SPRING 2018**

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**CLASS DAYS and TIME:** To be determined by course director based on availability of committee members

**CLASSROOM:** TBD for individual student

**COURSE FACULTY:** Rita Ghosh

**OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS:** STRF 233.6 and with prior appointment

**EMAIL:** ghoshr@uthscsa.edu

**TELEPHONE:** 210-562-4117

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**READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY - YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENTS.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

IBMS 7001-3CB (Qualifying Exam; QE) The mock and QE are closed book exams. 5 faculty members chosen from the discipline and based on expertise in the area of the student's proposal will serve on the mock and QE committee. The course director and a co-leader of CB will serve as permanent members of the committee. The student will give a 10-15 minute presentation of the proposal developed in CSBL 5077. An oral defense-of-proposal will examine the student's problem-solving process, the soundness of the student's experimental design, data interpretation, ability to communicate and respond to examiner's critiques. Questions will also test the general knowledge of the student on topics related to Cancer Biology, topics covered directly or indirectly in the student's proposal as well as IBMS courses.

The objective of the QE is to determine if a student has met programmatic expectations with regard to: i) acquiring a level of scientific reasoning and a knowledge base in his/her field of study appropriate for a graduate student at the current stage of training; ii) demonstrating skills of problem-solving and development of experimental strategies designed to test hypotheses associated with a specific scientific problem; and iii) demonstrating the ability to defend experimental strategies proposed for solving scientific problems. Successful completion of the QE is required for Advancement to Candidacy and continuation in the IBMS Ph.D. program.

**Pre-requisites** – CSBL5077

**Semester credit hours** – 1.0 SCH

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Revise the proposal based on reviewer critiques, defend the proposal and demonstrate discipline-related knowledge
- Demonstrate scientific reasoning, problem-solving skills and ability to think on the feet
- Respond to written critiques of the proposal after the mock

**COURSE ORGANIZATION**

**The main teaching modalities used in this course include:**

- 1) Defend scientific proposal in a mock QE before a committee of 5 faculty members

- 2) Prepare a revised proposal based on the critiques of the mock QE committee
- 3) Defend the revised proposal and display knowledge of key concepts in the discipline

**Materials** – A proposal developed by the student without help from the mentor, or other lab personnel

**Computer Access** – Personal laptop

**Reading Assignments** – Describe and list any reading assignments with bibliographic information; these can also be listed on the class schedule

General knowledge in cancer, biochemistry, molecular & cellular biology of the cancer cell, topics covered in IBMS, CB core courses and areas related directly and indirectly to the proposal

## **ATTENDANCE**

Required

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Required: N/A

Recommended: N/A

## **GRADING POLICIES AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

The mock QE is not officially graded. For the QE, the faculty committee will discuss the outcome and determine if the student will receive a PASS, FAIL, or an INCOMPLETE based on clear criteria set by the discipline (see evaluation sheet) to satisfy the expectations of the discipline and the IBMS graduate program. This grade represents the consensus of the examination committee. A student who passes the QE, will receive either a Satisfactory (S) or a grade of Honors (H). A student who fails the QE, will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory (U). Alternatively, a grade of Incomplete (I) may be posted, and a maximum of one remediation examination (based on consensus of the committee) will be allowed. If a student successfully passes the second attempt, the grade of "I" will be changed to Satisfactory (S). A student who fails the QE a second time, will receive a grade of Unsatisfactory (U). The QE committee may recommend for dismissal from the program by the Dean of the GSBS, or transfer into a Master's level degree track.

### **Grading System**

Please see the attached evaluation form.

Honors (H) – Mean of Overall Ratings = 3.5- 4.0, and there is no committee member's Overall Rating of < 3.

Satisfactory (S) - Mean of Overall Ratings = 2.5 – 3.4, and no more than 1 committee member's Overall Rating of < 2.0.

Unsatisfactory (U) - Mean of Overall Ratings < 2.5.

## **REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES**

In accordance with policy 4.2.3, **Request for Accommodation Under the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA)**, any student requesting accommodation must submit the appropriate request for accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, form 100). to his/her appropriate Associate Dean of their School and a copy to the ADA Coordinator. Additional information may be obtained at <http://uthscsa.edu/eeo/request.asp>.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM**

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline as prescribed by the UT System Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism,

collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, signing attendance sheets for another student, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act. Additional information may be obtained at <http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/generalinformation/generalacademicpolicies/academicdishonestypolicy/>

## **TITLE IX AT UTHSCSA**

### **Title IX Defined:**

Title of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It reads “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

### **University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio’s Commitment:**

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. As required by Title IX, UTHSCSA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student, faculty, or staff member who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct to immediately report the incident to the Title IX Director.

In an emergency, victims of sexual abuse should call 911. For non-emergencies, they may contact UPD at 210-567-2800. Additional information may be obtained at <http://students.uthscsa.edu/titleix/>

## **EMAIL POLICY**

Student may not contact any member of the mock or QE committee directly. All correspondence should be addressed to the course director. Timely responses to revision deadlines and calendar invites are required.

## **USE OF RECORDING DEVICES**

Only hand-written notes allowed. Recording is only permitted as required for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be switched off during the mock and QE. A laptop computer is allowed only for the purpose of presentation and should be shut down at the request of the course director.