# IBMS 7001 – 8PP

Physiology & Pharmacology – Qualifying Exam

**Spring 2021**

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**CLASS DAYS and TIME:** By Arrangement

**CLASSROOM**: None

**COURSE FACULTY:** Lynette Daws, Ph.D., and faculty serving as supervising professors

**OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS:** 335D, By Appointment

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

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Passing the Qualifying Examination (QE) is one of the steps required for advancement to candidacy. The examination includes both a written and an oral component. The objectives of the QE are to evaluate the research potential of the student, to evaluate the student's progress towards becoming a scientist, and to evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to integrate physiological and pharmacological principles.

**Pre-requisites –** Satisfactory completion of all required courses (average GPA of at least 3.0) and certification by the Supervising Professor that the student has demonstrated the potential for productive and independent investigation in the laboratory.

**Semester credit hours –** 1.0 SCH

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

- Write and submit to the QE Committee a specific aims page.
- Write and submit to the QE Committee an original proposal.
- Present a copy of the proposal to the Program Coordinator when the QE Committee has approved the proposal.
- Inform the SOC Chair and Program Coordinator of the date of the oral examination.
- Defend the proposal to the QE Committee in an oral examination.
- Consult with the Supervising Professor regarding the commitment of time to the QE, and insure that all other research and academic responsibilities are met.

### Scheduling/Timeline

The QE will be given to doctoral students during the second semester of the second academic year and is expected to be completed by June 1 of that year. The qualifying exam includes both a written component and an oral examination. To pass the QE, the student must meet benchmark deadlines (described below) throughout this examination process, including those for the specific aims page, the full written proposal, and the oral examination. Requested corrections to specific aims or written proposal must be accomplished within two weeks of receiving feedback from the QE committee. Delays are grounds for failing the exam. Any deviation from this schedule must be approved in advance by the QE Committee and the SOC Chair.

A specific aims page (due February 1) is submitted to the SOC Chair. QE committee members and Chair are then selected and approved by the SOC. The QE committee will then provide feedback regarding whether the specific aims: (1) indicate

an appropriate proposal for defense, (2) require changes that can be included within the full QE proposal, or (3) require significant changes such that the specific aims must be resubmitted to the Chair of the QE committee within two weeks. Once the QE committee has approved the specific aims, the student will prepare a full written research proposal, which must be submitted to the Chair of the QE Committee no later than April 15, 5:00pm CT. Except under special circumstances, approved by the SOC, the oral presentation and examination must be completed by June 1 of the second academic year. The student is responsible for scheduling all activities related to the examination, including the oral examination, and should contact the QE committee after submitting the written proposal to arrange a date for the oral examination. The student can gain assistance in scheduling from the Program Coordinator.

If the written proposal is deemed insufficient or unsatisfactory, the QE Committee will provide generalized feedback to the student to facilitate editing/rewriting. The revised proposal will be re-submitted as soon as possible, but no later than two weeks after feedback from the QE Committee Chair is received by the student. Only one revision/resubmission will be accepted within the examination process.

Contingent upon the decision of the QE Committee, you will be asked to:

- Revise your written proposal and resubmit.
- Schedule your oral exam. The oral examination must be completed by June 1. Remember this is the LATEST date. Your goal should be to successfully put the QE behind you as soon as possible.

**Timeline**

1. January (2nd year): Choose a topic for the proposal
2. February 1: Specific Aims page is due
3. February and March: Prepare written proposal
4. April 15: Written proposal is due
5. June 1: Oral examination must be complete
6. August 30: Should a retest be necessary, both components of the examination (written and oral) must be completed by August 30. If a student fails to successfully complete the QE by this deadline, their progress will be reviewed by the SOC with the possibility of suspension of stipend or recommendation of dismissal from the program.

**GRADING POLICIES AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

The student will pass the QE Examination if no more than two members of the QE Committee dissents. Conditional pass and pass with remediation will not be allowed; however, one re-examination may be allowed at the discretion of the committee for students that fail. A re-examination of the QE shall be conducted by the QE Committee as comprised at the time of the initial examination. Reexamination must be completed by August 30.

The Chair of the QE Committee will report, by memorandum, the outcome of the qualifying examination to the Chair of the SOC and Program Coordinator.

Failure of the QE Examination and re-examination will result in SOC recommendation to Dean of the Graduate School that the student be dismissed from the Ph.D. program.

**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/