

Requirements for BCS (Brain and Cognitive Sciences)

- 1) Students must fulfill all Psychology Graduate Program requirements.
- 2) All students must take at least one Core offered by BCS (8312 or 8712) but are strongly recommend taking both Cores. In addition, students should work with their mentors to select electives appropriate for their education
- 3) Students must make substantial progress on a research project in their first year. This project should be developed in collaboration with your advisor. A presentation describing your project must be given before the last day of classes in the spring semester. The quality of the project must be such that, assuming the data are not equivocal, it can be submitted to a research journal. These presentations will normally be made during the weekly area meetings and must be presented before at least the advisor for the researcher's project and two other faculty members from within the program. Continuation in the graduate program is contingent on successfully completing this project.
- 4) Preliminary exams will be completed during the 3rd year, as defined by beginning at the summer following the end of the 2nd year and ending at the last day of final exams during the 2nd semester of the third year (i.e., the students' 6th semester). Students failing their first preliminary defense or failing to defend their preliminary exam during the 3rd year, as defined above, will automatically be put on probation and must defend their preliminary exam within 8 weeks or be asked to leave the program.

The preliminary paper and oral exam have been developed to assess students' progress, ability to synthesize material relevant to their area of research, and ability to effectively communicate the information both in writing and orally. The topic of the preliminary paper is expected to be a topic that focuses on a student's research. Students must submit an outline for a preliminary paper to their preliminary committee. Once the outline is approved, a signed and dated copy of the outline will be forwarded to the director of BCS. From the point at which the outline is approved, the student has 3 months to complete the preliminary paper and defend it in an oral exam. Note: this 3 month process can be initiated any time during the 3rd year as long as the defense of the preliminary exam occurs before the end of 2nd semester finals week for the 3rd year. Failure to complete the defense within 3 months will result in probation. In addition, the preliminary paper and defense must be completed by the end of the 2nd semester of the third year; failure to do so will result in probation. If probationary status is not changed by the end of the summer, the student will be dismissed from the program.

The preliminary exam will be a paper chosen from one of two models: A synthesis of existing research literature in the style of a *Psychological Bulletin* article, or a development of a theoretical approach to a problem in the style of a *Psychological Review* article (these two formats are meant as guides completion of the preliminary exam does not require submitting to these journals). A target length for the preliminary paper is approximately 40 pages of text (range 30-50 pages doubled spaced 12 point font, not including references). Within the 3 month period, students will schedule an oral presentation and defense of their prelim. The presentation will be open to all faculty members of the psychology department. Dissertation proposal defenses will not be scheduled for the same time.

Exams will be evaluated by a committee; at least three members of this committee must be members of Temple's Psychology department Brain, Behavior, and Cognition cluster. Students in their second year are expected to identify the members of this committee and meet with the committee at least once to discuss prelim exam topics, format, and submit the outline. Students can meet with committee members individually or as a group

Students will be graded on a 4-point scale: Pass with Distinction, Pass, Marginal Pass, and Failure. A student may fail to complete the prelim requirement for two reasons. (1) He or she may not take the examination by the deadline. (2) He or she may fail the written and/or oral portion of the preliminary examination. In either case (1) or (2), the student will be placed on probation at the semester during which he or she fails to complete the prelim requirement. Students placed on probation for failure to complete the prelim will be removed from probation on meeting the following conditions.

Case (1). The student who fails to complete the prelim by the deadline has 8 weeks from the end of that date to satisfactorily complete the prelim requirement; failure to do so will result in the student's being dismissed from the program at the end of that 8-week period. The student who has not met the deadline for completing the prelim must within those eight weeks pass the written and oral components of the prelim examination. [Note: A student who has been placed on probation for failing to meet the deadline for completing the prelim thus will be dismissed from the program if he or she fails the written component, or the oral component, or both, of delayed preliminary examination.]

Case (2). The student who has failed one or both parts of the prelim examination must, as appropriate, either re-write the prelim paper to the satisfaction of the committee, satisfactorily complete the oral examination, or both, *within 8 weeks from the date of failing the prelim*. Any student who fails to pass the second exam will be asked to leave the program. Exceptions to the timetable must be requested in writing and submitted to the director of the BCS cluster, and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

For additional information concerning the Prelim and related issues, see <http://www.temple.edu/psychology/graduate/defending/index.htm>

5) BCS's expectations for presentations and publications are a presentation at a meeting (or submission) by the end of the 2nd year and at least one every subsequent year and a manuscript submitted by end of the 3rd year and at least one every subsequent year. Students failing to meet these standards will be put on probation with the expectation for continuation that this is resolved.