

Chemical Biology Preliminary Examination

The written preliminary report should describe background material on the student's research project; the student's research progress to date; and the student's goals and plans for future research. The report should follow the guidelines stated above for the first-year paper, except that the page limitation is ten pages of combined text for the introduction, results, and discussion, in addition to any appropriate figures and tables. The completed report must be submitted by the student in printed form to each member of the thesis committee at least one week in advance of the oral examination date. If this submission date is not met, then the oral examination may need to be rescheduled, at the discretion of the committee members.

The purpose of the Preliminary Examination is to assist the thesis committee members in answering two important questions:

- 1) Is the student sufficiently knowledgeable about science to warrant admission to candidacy for a Ph.D. degree?
- 2) Has the student accomplished enough in thesis research and thought enough about research direction to warrant admission to candidacy?

The student should prepare a brief oral presentation that describes the research project, including both prior and proposed research. Either PowerPoint or overhead transparencies may be used to supplement this presentation. It is reasonable to prepare approximately 20 minutes' worth of material, assuming no interruptions. Of course, committee members will likely have many questions during the presentation, and the overall examination will likely take one hour if not somewhat longer.