

## MSc TO PhD TRANSITION EXAMINATION

MSc students who have made excellent progress during their first year may be considered for transfer to the PhD program. The transfer process is typically initiated within 16 months of the student's commencement in the MSc program, and must be completed within **18 months**.

Such transfers will be considered only when:

1. The student has completed a minimum of 6 credit hours and has obtained a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 (on a 4.5 scale) in MSc courses;
2. The student and advisor must provide a written request to transition to the Chair of the GSAC (or designate). The student must include the reasons for requesting the transition;
3. The student must provide a signed document from the Advisory Committee members supporting the transition into the PhD program; and
4. The student must arrange a meeting with the Chair of the GSAC, or designate, to discuss the following matters:
  - a. Requirements and expectations of the MSc to PhD transition process;
  - b. Timeline for completing the transition process;
  - c. Identifying members of the examining committee; and
  - d. Setting of an examination date and time.

At least **7-days prior** to the examination date, the student must provide the following to each Examination Committee member (consisting of the student's Advisory Committee), and the Chair of the GSAC:

1. The [BMG Academic Progress Report form](#);
2. A 250-word, non-scientific summary, in his/her own words. Should highlight the "big picture" and significance of the PhD work; and
3. A Research/Project Proposal, in his/her own words.

The research proposal will be in the following format: 5 single-spaced pages of text, with 1" margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Figures, tables, references, and/or supplementary material are expected, but do not count towards the 5-page written portion of the proposal. The document should include: Introduction/background, Preliminary findings, Rationale and hypothesis, Research aims including expected results, potential pitfalls and solutions, and Significance. **The student's advisor cannot proofread the document.**

### MSc TO PhD TRANSITION ORAL EXAMINATION:

The student will give an oral presentation (maximum of 20-minutes) with presentation software that will be based solely on the PhD Transition Research/Project Proposal. Following the presentation, there will be up to 3 rounds of questions; 40% of the questions will be on the Research/Project Proposal; 40% of the questions will be on comprehensive knowledge of Medical Biochemistry and/or Medical Genetics and/or Computational Biology (for those with a research focus in computational biology); and 20% will be follow-up of questions on either the research project or general knowledge.

The total duration of the presentation and questions will be 90 minutes. Following completion of the oral examination, the student will be asked to leave the room. The Examination Committee will review coursework achievements, research accomplishments, abstract and proposal, proposed PhD research project, and performance in the oral examination.

One or fewer dissenting votes constitutes a "pass", while two or more dissenting votes constitute a "fail". No repeats are permitted. If the student fails, they will continue in the MSc program.