

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IBG INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE

Revised: Spring 2024

Eligibility: To be eligible for the IBG Interdisciplinary Certificate, students must complete the application for the BG Certificate Program AND be accepted into a PhD program or be a current PhD student in good standing.

Friday Journal Club: All students must participate in the weekly journal club and colloquia series at the Institute for Behavior Genetics. Each student must present at journal club at least three times (no more than once per semester) during the course of their training but yearly presentations are encouraged. At least one presentation should focus on the student's own research; preferably early in the training program.

NIMH Trainees: NIMH trainees are required to attend Psychiatry Grand Rounds at UC Denver. You are encouraged to attend 'several' talks of interest to you—but at least one per semester. Psychiatry Grand Rounds take place on Wednesdays at 12p at the Anschutz medical campus in Denver. See the UC Denver Department of Psychiatry website (<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/departments/psychiatry/Pages/PsychiatryWelcome.aspx>) for the Grand Rounds schedule. Travel costs for attendance can be reimbursed from the NIMH training grant (trainees are encouraged to organize group attendance).

NIMH trainees also will organize a mini-conference every other year on the genetics of mental health. All NIMH trainees will present their research and also invite an external speaker who give a Plenary Lecture and review the training program.

I. Course Requirements:

A Courses. Students must complete each of the following five A courses:

1. Behavioral Genetics (PSYC 5102, 2 credits; Rhee).
2. Physiological Genetics (IPHY 5200, PSYC 5200, 3 credits; Stitzel).
3. Statistics (PSYC 5741, 4 credits; PSYC 5751; IPHY 5800, 5 credits; PSYC 5541, 4 credits; or other approved course). This must be a graduate-level course in statistics (of at least one semester), approved by the student's advisory committee.
4. Scientific Integrity/Ethics (GRAD 5000, 1 credit; UC Denver Pharmacology 7605, or another approved course). ***Students appointed to a training grant are REQUIRED to take a scientific integrity/ethics course during their first year of appointment.***
5. Methods Proseminar in Behavioral Genetics** (The course number will vary depending upon who the lead instructors are (EBIO 5800; IPHY 6010; PSYC 7102, 3 credits)). PSYC 5102 and IPHY/PSYC 5200 (or equivalent courses) are pre-requisites for this Proseminar.

***** This course is only required for students entering the program beginning Fall 2021***

B Courses. Students also must complete 2 courses from section B of the BG Certificate Checklist (students in the BPSG area must complete 3 courses). See the current BG Certificate Checklist for current section B courses.

C Courses: Students must complete at least 1 course (2 courses for BPSG students) from this group to complement and facilitate their research interests and training goals. These courses can come from the group of already approved courses listed on the BG Certificate Checklist or another course or courses relevant to the student's research and training goals. If a student identifies a course (or courses) they would like to take in lieu of the listed approved courses, they must get approval from the Training Committee prior to taking the course. In cases where the student would like to take a course not on the approved list, the student should speak with their advisory committee to discuss the course and its relevance to their interests and research goals prior to seeking approval by the Training Committee. **B courses taken in excess of the required number (2 for certificate and 3 for BPSG students) can be used towards C course requirements.**

NOTE: As some courses can only be taught every other year, it is each student's responsibility to take relevant courses when offered. Some equivalent courses may be offered at the Health Sciences Center or other venues. Course substitutions may be requested -- see Petitions below.

Petitions: Deviations from the IBG Certificate requirements may be requested by petition to the Graduate Training Committee. Petitions are generally submitted to either request to use a course currently not on the BG Certificate course list towards the BG certificate requirements or request the substitution of a previously taken course for one of the required courses. To request counting a course not on the BG certificate course list towards the BG certificate requirements, a written petition describing how the course meets your specific needs should be submitted to the Training Committee Chair along with a syllabus for the course. To request substituting a previously taken course for a BG certificate course, a written petition describing the overlap between the prior course and BG certificate course as well as syllabi from the prior and BG certificate course should be submitted to the Training Committee Chair. Alternatively, students may also take written exams to test out of a course as specified by the course instructor. Petitions must be approved by the IBG Training Committee. However, disapproval of a petition may be changed to approval by a majority vote of the IBG faculty.

II. Teaching requirements

Each of the students in the IBG Training Program must TA for at least one semester. (As part of their general responsibilities for the development of the student, advisory committees may sometimes require additional teaching.)

III. General Requirements

IBG students are required to conduct their doctoral dissertation research on topics of direct relevance to animal or human behavioral genetics, under the supervision of an IBG faculty member. A training file for each student is maintained in the IBG office for tracking progress toward completion of program requirements. Each student is to assist in updating this file at least once per year by updating their BG Certificate Checklist and providing it to the graduate student liaison (currently Janna Vannorsdel).

Annual Progress Report. Each January students are required to prepare and submit an annual progress report in consultation with their faculty advisor. This report is to assess student progress towards the BG certificate and aid the Training Committee in identifying candidates for any open training grant slots.

Summer Research Plan and Report. All students are required to submit a summer research plan by April 1st. For students not on training grants, the plan will serve as an application for summer stipend support. All students will be expected to provide a summary of research accomplishments at the end of the summer.

Advisory Committee. Students, in consultation with their faculty advisor, should set-up an IBG Advisory Committee during their first year in the BG program. The committee should consist of 3 IBG Faculty Fellows (includes faculty advisor). Students should meet annually with the Advisory Committee to discuss research and training progress. Note: this committee is different than a comprehensive exam or thesis committee although members of the student's advisory committee often are also on the student's comprehensive exam and thesis committees. Results of the Advisory Committee meeting are incorporated into the student's training file by the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTAL AND GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED HERE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH STUDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS/HER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

IV. Annual Presentations at IBG Poster Day and IBG Mini-conference

IBG Poster Day. All continuing students are required to present a poster describing their research activity of the past year at the annual IBG Poster Day—held each year in August, typically the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding the start of the semester.

Mini-conference. Every spring, there is an IBG mini-conference that is organized by graduate students. All continuing students are expected to attend and present their research at this conference.