



University of Pittsburgh

Department of Bioengineering

Room 302 Benedum Hall

3700 O'Hara Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Tel: 412-383-9713

Spring 2021 Preliminary Exam Schedule (subject to change)

“Mentor” here refers to the mentor who is not your PI. This mentor will likely be outside of your track and can help guide general questions, clarity of ideas and communication. Although these date guidelines do not officially apply to your PI, please discuss your ideas with them and feel free to get their feedback on the ongoing writing process. Neither your PI or your mentor will serve on your prelim committee. If you have questions or concerns about this schedule, please contact Dr. Gandhi.

Feb 8 - Meet with your mentor by this point to discuss research questions

Prepare several ideas to discuss the direction of your prelim with your mentor
Discuss some potential specific aims breakdowns, important background, relationship to your current research and knowledge

Mar 8 - Students submit specific aims page to mentor

Prepare a draft of your specific aims page. This does not need to be a final draft but it should clearly lay out the background, your hypothesis, aims, and how you will pursue your aims.
Why is it important, what will you solve, how will you solve it?

Mar 22 - Detailed feedback on specific aims page returned

Apr 5 - Specific Aims page due to track coordinator

Apr 16 - Students send their mentor the full document

Prepare a full draft of your document. This does not need to be a final draft but the farther along you are, the better their feedback will be. Make sure you have your figures included in this draft and have fully described your planned methods and expected outcomes, and your scientific justification for each aim.

Apr 30 – Mentor returns feedback on full document.

The mentor should be granted at least two weeks to provide feedback.

2 BMES workshops in this window: Stats, Polish/review of document by older grad students

May 17 - Written document due – Upload portal (2 weeks)

BMES oral presentation practices



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Week of May 31 - Oral presentations

Committee considers: Written document, Oral presentation, Q&A

Two faculty members on the exam committee will read document and provide written feedback.

June 21 - Decisions and feedback to students