All students are required to form a thesis committee during the first year of study and have an annual meeting with the members. A written progress report must be submitted annually to the program administrator.

**FUNDING**

More than 95 percent of the program's enrolled students are supported by a research assistantship or fellowship. Incoming applicants are considered for competitive fellowships during the admissions process; no additional application is required. Additional fellowship support for minority and educationally disadvantaged students is also available (prospective students should contact the program administrator at the time of application). Teaching assistantships are discouraged until the student has passed the preliminary exam. Training-grant support may be considered in the third through fifth years of study for Ph.D. students, assuming the student meets citizenship criteria, satisfactory academic progress, has a project that is relevant to the mission of NICHD, and continued funding by the National Institutes of Health. Financial support generally includes tuition remission, monthly stipend check, and participation in the State of Wisconsin health insurance program. Benefit costs change on an annual basis; contact the program administrator for current rates. Support for international students varies by faculty advisor. International students offered admission will be required to submit a notarized financial statement prior to visa documents being issued.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS**

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

**DOCTORAL DEGREES**

Ph.D.

**MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT**

51 credits

**MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT**

32 credits

**MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT**

At least half (26 credits of the required 51) must be completed in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: GRADUATE WORK FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

Courses taken that fulfill equivalent program requirements may be considered to exempt a class. Exemptions must be discussed with the program director. One course may be substituted for another due to background and interest. Statistics courses may be considered by the student's advisory committee for exemption; however, students are still
strongly encouraged to have this refresher. Decisions of the director are final.

These exemptions do not waive a student from any credits, merely from taking the courses. The student will still need to accumulate 51 credits for their degree.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNDERGRADUATE**

Courses taken that fulfill equivalent program requirements may be considered to exempt a class. Exemptions must be discussed with the program director. One course may be substituted for another due to background, interest, or program-related career relevance. Statistics courses may be considered by the student's advisory committee for exemption; however, students are still strongly encouraged to have this refresher or choose one with different emphasis (e.g., clinical). Decisions of the director are final.

These exemptions do not waive a student from any credits, merely from taking the courses. The student will still need to accumulate 51 credits for the degree.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNIVERSITY SPECIAL**

Courses taken that fulfill equivalent program requirements may be considered to exempt a class. Exemptions must be discussed with the program director. One course may be substituted for another due to background, interest, or program-related career relevance. Statistics courses may be considered by the student's advisory committee for exemption; however, students are still strongly encouraged to have this refresher or choose one with different emphasis (e.g., clinical). Decisions of the director are final.

These exemptions do not waive a student from any credits, merely from taking the courses. The student will still need to accumulate 51 credits for the degree.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED**

Contact the program for information on any additional required courses.

**DOCTORAL MINOR/BREADTH REQUIREMENTS**

Doctoral students are not required to complete a doctoral minor.

**OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT** 3.00

**OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS**

The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

**PROBATION POLICY**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**ADVISOR**

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

**ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS**

Doctoral students are required to take a comprehensive preliminary/oral examination after they have cleared their record of all Incomplete and Progress grades (other than research and thesis). Deposit of the doctoral dissertation in the Graduate School is required.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Doctoral students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within 5 years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

**ADMISSIONS**

Admission to the program is competitive; applications are due December 1 of each year for fall semester. Potential applicants will have a major in the biological sciences, a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.3/4.0, and appropriate preparatory courses in physiology, chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, calculus, statistics, organic chemistry, and genetics. Prior laboratory research experience is strongly recommended.

The application process includes the completion and submission of the online Graduate School application, payment of the application fee, submission of a personal statement for graduate study, receipt of GRE scores and TOEFL or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores (TOEFL and IELTS are for international applicants) by Educational Testing Service, receipt of three letters of recommendation, and a current curriculum vitae. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the online reference feature in the Graduate School application system. Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be sent directly to the program administrator.

Completed applications for fall entry are reviewed by a panel of faculty. Applicants who pass this first step will be contacted and have materials distributed to all faculty in the program for further consideration.
Otherwise applications for spring or summer term are possible, but only with the approval of the admissions committee.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**
- Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within the field of study.
- Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within the field of study.
- Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.
- Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.
- Advances contributions of the field of study to society.
- Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**
- Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** Professors Bird (director) (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Abbott (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Alarid (Oncology), Bosu (Medical Sciences/Veterinary Medicine), Downs (Cell and Regenerative Biology), Drezner (Medicine), Golos (Comparative Biosciences), Jefcoate (Cell and Regenerative Biology), Khatib (Dairy Sciences), Kling (Pediatrics), Levine (Neuroscience), Magness (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Martin (Biochemistry), Ntambi (Biochemistry/Nutritional Sciences), Odorico (Surgery), Parrish (Animal Sciences), Pelegri (Genetics), Peterson (Pharmacy), Schuler (Comparative Biosciences/Veterinary Medicine), Shah (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Terasawa (Pediatrics), Thomson (Cell and Regenerative Biology), Wiltbank (Dairy Science), Xu (Oncology), and Zheng (Obstetrics and Gynecology); Associate Professors Atwood (Medicine), Audhya (Biomolecular Chemistry), Duello (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Jorgensen (Comparative Biosciences), Liu (Surgery), Patankar (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Payseur (Genetics), Vezina (Comparative Biosciences/Veterinary Medicine), and Watters (Comparative Biosciences/Veterinary Medicine); Assistant Professors Alisch (Psychiatry), Arendt (Comparative Biosciences), Blum (Cell and Regenerative Biology), Davis (Medicine), Hernandez (Dairy Science), Kimple (Medicine), Kreeger (Biomedical Engineering), Merrins (Medicine), and Salih (Obstetrics and Gynecology)