

PhD Seminars

First Year Seminar:

All PhD students who entered the program directly from an undergraduate program, (or who entered without prior screening), are required to give a seminar after one year in the program.

First-Year Seminars are held in October/November. You will be given adequate notification about the seminars so that if there are any conflicts you and your supervisor can inform the Graduate Office before the final schedule is complete.

If you have not progressed significantly on your thesis topic, you can still give a seminar focusing on the scientific thought and rationale. You should present some data and explain how you are handling it (include any problems you are encountering). The length of your presentation should be 15 minutes maximum. A 10-minute question period will follow your presentation.

Your supervisor is required to attend your Seminar. (PhD Supervisory Committee members are also encouraged to attend). Three GEC members attend the Seminars given by all first-year Ph.D. students. The Seminar (and the Supervisory Committee Report) is used by the GEC to determine whether the Ph.D. student is progressing satisfactorily enough to be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program

Since supervisors are required to attend all of their students' seminars, it is not possible for the Graduate Office to give the students a choice of dates. We will do our best to distribute a tentative schedule early enough so that if there are any conflicts you and your supervisor can inform the Graduate Office before the final schedule is complete.

PhD Mid-Point Seminar:

As part of the PCL1003Y Seminar course, all PhD students are required to give a Midpoint Seminar – usually scheduled during the months of May/June around the 3rd year of enrolment; and are an opportunity for you to become familiar with the expectations for the defence.

At the midpoint seminar you will be required to give a summary of work in progress or of particular projects or sets of experiments that have been completed. The length of the presentation should be 20 minutes. A 10-minute question period will follow your presentation.

The Graduate Office will be responsible for scheduling these seminars. Your supervisor and your supervisory committee members will be contacted to ascertain their availability. [Students can request that their participation in the oral presentation component of the annual Visions in Pharmacology (VIP) student research day count as credit for the PhD Midpoint Seminar.] If you wish to do this, you must first ensure that your supervisor and most (if not all) of your Supervisory Committee members are available to attend VIP.

As with the First-Year Seminars, the Graduate Office will schedule the Midpoints around the dates the supervisor and supervisory committee members are available; therefore, there is very little leeway when it comes to assigning the dates for these seminars. You will be given adequate notification about the seminars so that if there are any conflicts you and/or your supervisor can inform the Graduate Office before the final schedule is complete.

PhD Exit Seminar:

The PhD Exit seminar is usually given between 2-3 months prior to the Final Oral Examination (i.e., Senate Oral Examination). Students give an overview of all of the results of their research.

The following is a suggested format for the Pharmacology Ph.D. exit seminar:

Total length = 35 minutes (plus 15 minutes for questions)

- 10 min general introduction (so that all attendees can fully appreciate the research topic)
- 20 min core material (similar to what you will present at the departmental and senate defenses)
- 5 min future plan/perspective

The Exit Seminar must be completed before plans can be made for the final oral examination. When choosing a date, please ensure that your supervisor and all (or a majority) of your supervisory committee members will be available to attend.