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Table of Contents

1. General Information 5
   1.1 Graduate Programs and Degrees 5
   1.2 Department Safety Training 5

2. Bioengineering Master of Science – Overview and Program Concentrations 5
   2.1 Concentrations 5
   2.2 Detailed MS Program Course Requirements 6
      MS Concentration 1 – Medical Devices and Bioimaging (28 SH) 6
      MS Concentration 2 - Cell and Tissue Engineering (28 SH) 7
      MS Concentration 3 – Biomechanics (28 SH) 7
   2.3 MS Program Thesis Option Requirements 8
   2.4 MS Program Project-Option Requirements 9
   2.5 Graduate Certificate Options 9

3. Bioengineering Ph.D. – Overview and Research Areas 10
   PhD Research Area 1: Imaging, Instrumentation, and Signal Processing 10
   PhD Research Area 2: Biomechanics, Biotransport and MechanoBiology 10
   PhD Research Area 3: Molecular, Cell, and Tissue Engineering 10
   PhD Research Area 4: Computational and Systems Biology 10
   3.1 Ph.D. Course Requirements 11
      3.1.1 Students Entering with BS 11
         I. Required Core Courses (12 SH): 11
         II. Restricted Technical Electives (8 SH): 11
         III. Unrestricted Technical Electives (12 SH): 11
         IV. Professional Development Courses (0 SH): 11
         V. Dissertation (0 SH): 12
      3.1.2 Advanced Entry Students 12
      3.1.3 Professional Development Course Requirements 12
   3.2 Ph.D. Research Requirements 13
      3.2.1 PhD Laboratory Rotation 13
      3.2.2 Finding a Research Advisor 14
      3.2.3 Qualifying Exam (written and oral) 14
      3.2.4 Ph.D. Dissertation Committee 15
      3.2.5 Annual Committee Meetings and Dissertation Proposals 15
      3.2.6 Ph.D. Dissertation Defense 15
   3.3 Example Ph.D. Timeline – Research Milestones 16
   3.4 Ph.D. Funding 16
      3.4.1 Teaching Assistantships 17
      3.4.2 Research Assistantships 17
      3.4.3 Arranging Payment 17

4. Statement on Academic Integrity 17
5. Petition and Registration Override Procedures 18
6. Probation Policies and Procedures 18
7. Policies and Procedures for Course Transfer 18
8. Policies and Procedures for Requesting Changes in the Graduate Program 19
8. Annual Individual Development Plan Guidelines 19
9. Co-op & Experiential Learning 20
  9.1 Eligibility 20
  9.2 Applying for Co-op: 20
10. Campus Map 21
    Key Bioengineering Buildings:
    - The Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Complex (ISEC) 23
    - Snell Engineering Center 23
    - Mugar Life Sciences Building 23
    - Egan Research center 23
    - Curry Student Center 23
    Labs:
    - Popular Coffee Spots 23
11. Other Useful links 24
12. Bioengineering Faculty and Staff 25
Appendix A. Bioengineering Department Safety Training 33
Appendix B. Suggested PhD Electives by Research Area and Master Electives List 34
  Area 1 – Imaging, Instrumentation, and Signal Processing 34
  Area 2 - Biomechanics, Biotransport and MechanoBiology 34
  Area 3 – Molecular, Cell, and Tissue Engineering 34
  Area 4 – Computational and Systems Biology 35
  Appendix B Continued - Master List of Approved BioE PhD Electives 36
Appendix C. Laboratory Rotation Form (Following Page) 38
Appendix D. PhD Advisor Declaration Form (Following Page) 41
Appendix E. Bioengineering Qualifying Exam, Structure and Criteria 43
  Timing and Organization 43
  II. Exam Structure and Requirements 43
Student Name: 44
1. Exam Part I: Journal paper 44
2. Presentation section: 45
Appendix F. PhD Dissertation Committee Form (Following Page) 42
Appendix G. Industrial PhD - Best Practices and Recommendations
  Coursework Requirements 3
  Research Requirements 3

Updated February 22, 2021
1. General Information

Welcome to the Department of Bioengineering (‘BioE’) at Northeastern University! This document provides information for current and prospective students about graduate programs in the Department of Bioengineering, College of Engineering, Northeastern University. Graduate students are expected to read this document, be familiar with the rules and procedures, follow them, and refer to this guide when they have questions.

1.1 Graduate Programs and Degrees

The BioE Department offers two main graduate programs, a Master of Science (MS) in Bioengineering and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Bioengineering. MS and PhD degree programs are only offered as full-time programs. Applicants with a BS or MS degree in bioengineering or related field can apply to the MS and PhD programs.

1.2 Department Safety Training

All PhD students and MS students who plan to perform laboratory research are required to complete the basic Department of Bioengineering laboratory safety program, plus any additional lab-specific safety training. Students are strongly advised to complete this training in the first month following matriculation. The list of required online and in-class courses is provided in Appendix A of this handbook. For more information please contact the department safety officer Ian Armstrong (i.armstrong@northeastern.edu).

2. Bioengineering Master of Science – Overview and Program Concentrations

Students accepted to the Master of Science in Bioengineering program have three concentrations from which to choose:

- Concentration 1: Medical Devices and Bioimaging
- Concentration 2: Cell and Tissue Engineering
- Concentration 3: Biomechanics

A concentration is required. Each concentration has required courses and a list of technical electives. Students should select two to five courses, depending on the concentration, and whether he or she selects the thesis option, project option, or course-only option (please consult the detailed requirements for each concentration).

2.1 Concentrations

Concentration in Medical Devices and Bioimaging

The biomedical devices concentration is appropriate for students interested in the design of biomedical devices, as well as biomedical imaging and signal processing. Three courses are required for all students in this concentration, Design of Biomedical Instrumentation (BIOE 5810), Design, Manufacture, and Evaluation of Medical Devices (BIOE 5250), and Biomedical Imaging (BIOE 5235).

Concentration in Cell and Tissue Engineering

The cell and tissue engineering concentration is appropriate for students interested in molecular, cell, and tissue engineering. Two courses are required of all cell and tissue engineering students,
Molecular Bioengineering (BIOE 5410) and Cellular Engineering (BIOE 5420). There is an extensive list of approved technical electives to choose from to complete the degree.

**Concentration in Biomechanics**

Students who join the biomechanics concentration will cover multiscale mechanics, including whole-body movement, mechanical properties of biomaterials, and fluid mechanics of physiological fluids. All biomechanics concentration students must complete two of the following courses: Multiscale Biomechanics (BIOE 5650), Musculoskeletal Biomechanics (ME 5665), Physiological Fluid Mechanics (BIOE 5630), and Computational Biomechanics (BIOE 5640).

### 2.2 Detailed MS Program Course Requirements

The following sections explain the course requirements for students entering the bioengineering Master Program. A total of 32 semester hours are required and a minimum 3.000 GPA. In addition to the core courses for each MS student, each concentration has its own academic track.

**Required Core Courses (All Concentrations)**

- BIOE 7390 Seminar 0 SH
- BIOE 6100 Medical Physiology 4 SH
- BIOE 6000 Principals of Bioengineering 1 SH

**Concentration Specific Requirements**

Complete requirements for **one of the three** MS concentrations as follows:

**MS Concentration 1 – Medical Devices and Bioimaging (28 SH)**

*Required Course Work (12 SH)*

A grade of C or higher is required.

- BIOE 5235 Biomedical Imaging
- BIOE 5250 Design, Manufacture, and Evaluation of Medical Devices
- BIOE 5810 Design of Biomedical Instrumentation

*And one of the following:*

i) **Course Work Option (16 SH)**

Complete 16 semester hours from the course list (see below).

ii) **Project Option**

- BIOE 7890 Master’s Project 4 SH
- Complete 12 semester hours from the course list. 12 SH

iii) **Thesis Option**

Complete the following (repeatable) course twice:

- BIOE 7990 Thesis 8 SH
- Complete 8 semester hours from the elective course list. 8 SH

**Concentration 1 Electives Course List:**

- BIOE 5115 Dynamical Systems in Biological Engineering
- BIOE 5320 Advanced Biomedical Measurements and Instrumentation
- BIOE 5820 Biomaterials
- BIOE 5850 Design of Implants
- BIOE 7100 Special Topics in Biomedical Imaging and Signal Processing
- BIOE 7250 Mathematical Methods in Bioengineering
BIOE 7400  Special Topics in Biomedical Devices  
EECE 5648  Biomedical Optics  
EECE 5664  Biomedical Signal Processing  
EECE 7105  Optics for Engineers  
EECE 7200  Linear Systems Analysis  
EECE 7203  Complex Variable Theory and Differential Equations  
EECE 7204  Applied Probability and Stochastic Processes  
EECE 5606  Micro- and Nanofabrication  
ME 5657  Finite Element Method  
NNMD 5370  Nanomedicine Research Techniques

**MS Concentration 2 - Cell and Tissue Engineering (28 SH)**

*Required Course Work (8 SH)*
A grade of C or higher is required.
- BIOE 5410  Molecular Bioengineering
- BIOE 5420  Cellular Engineering

*And one of the following:*
- i) Course Work Option  (20 SH)
  Complete 20 semester hours from the course list (see below).

- ii) Project Option
  BIOE 7890  Master’s Project  4 SH
  + Complete 16 semester hours from the course list.  16 SH

- iii) Thesis Option
  Complete the following (repeatable) course twice:
  BIOE 7990  Thesis  8 SH
  + Complete 12 semester hours from the course list.  12 SH

*Concentration 2 Electives Course List:*
- BIOE 5250  Design, Manufacture, and Evaluation of Medical Devices
- BIOE 5430  Principles and Applications of Tissue Engineering
- BIOE 5820  Biomaterials
- BIOL 5543  Stem Cells and Regeneration
- BIOL 6301  Molecular Cell Biology
- ME 5667  Solid Mechanics of Cells and Tissues
- NNMD 5370  Nanomedicine Research Techniques
- NNMD 5470  Nano/Biomedical Commercialization: Concept to Market

**MS Concentration 3 – Biomechanics (28 SH)**

*Required Course Work (8 SH)*
A grade of C or higher is required.
Complete two of the following courses:
- BIOE 5630  Physiological Fluid Mechanics
- BIOE 5640  Computational Biomechanics
- ME 5665  Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
- BIOE 5650  Multiscale Biomechanics
And one of the following:

i) Course Work Option (20 SH)
Complete 20 semester hours from the course list (see below).

ii) Project Option
BIOE 7890 Master’s Project 4 SH
+ Complete 16 semester hours from the course list. 16 SH

iii) Thesis Option
Complete the following (repeatable) course twice:
BIOE 7990 Thesis 8 SH
+ Complete 12 semester hours from the course list. 12 SH

Concentration 3 Electives Course List:
BIOE 5630 Physiological Fluid Mechanics
BIOE 5640 Computational Biomechanics
BIOE 5650 Multiscale Biomechanics
BIOE 7300 Special Topics in Biomechanics
Biol 5601 Multidisciplinary Approaches in Motor Control
EECE 7200 Linear Systems Analysis
EECE 7203 Complex Variable Theory and Differential Equations
ME 5665 Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
ME 5650 Advanced Mechanics of Materials
ME 5655 Dynamics and Mechanical Vibration
ME 5657 Finite Element Method
ME 5659 Control Systems Engineering
ME 5667 Solid Mechanics of Cells and Tissues
ME 7210 Elasticity and Plasticity
ME 7238 Advanced Finite Element Method
ME 7245 Fracture Mechanics and Failure Analysis
ME 7255 Continuum Mechanics

2.3 MS Program Thesis Option Requirements
For MS students choosing the Thesis Option, he/she must find a thesis advisor and complete 8 SH of BIOE 7990 (Thesis). This is usually done in two semesters, each semester 4 SH, but can also be done in one semester for 8 SH. If a student has completed 8 SH of BIOE 7990, but has no yet defended their thesis, he/she must enroll in BIOE 7996 (Master’s Thesis Continuation, 0 SH) until they successfully defend their thesis.

When you are ready to defend your thesis, you must form a “Thesis committee” in consultation with your advisor. The Committee must have at least three members, and at least two of which must be tenured or tenure-track BIOE faculty. After successful defense of your thesis, a letter grade will be assigned to BIOE 7990 (Master’s Thesis) by your advisor. Your MS thesis defense date and location must be announced at least one week before the date of the defense. Students should bring a signed copy of the MS Thesis Signature form to the Bioengineering office when complete (ISEC 206).
An MS student may graduate once he/she has successfully defended his/her MS thesis, and fulfilled all course requirements. To graduate, one must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 with no more than 9 semester hours of grades below B – in all courses applied to the degree.

2.4 MS Program Project-Option Requirements
For MS students choosing the Project Option, he/she must find a project advisor and complete 4 SH of BIOE 7890 (MS Project).

When you have completed your MS project, you must write a Project Report. A template for writing the Project Report can be found at BIOE Department website. Your report must be submitted to your project advisor and obtain his/her approval. The approved Project Report will be archived by both the BIOE Department as well as the project advisor.

An MS student can graduate once he/she has obtained his/her Project advisor’s approval of the Project report and fulfilled all course requirements. To graduate, one must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 with no more than 9 semester hours of grades below B – in all courses applied to the degree.

2.5 Graduate Certificate Options
Students enrolled in a master's degree have the opportunity to also pursue one of the many engineering graduate certificate options in addition to or in combination with the MS degree. Students should consult their faculty advisor regarding these options.

Gordon Institute of Engineering Leadership

Master's Degree in Bioengineering with Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership
Students may complete a Master of Science in Bioengineering in addition to earning a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership. Students must apply and be admitted to the Gordon Engineering Leadership Program in order to pursue this option. The program requires fulfillment of the 16-semester-hour-curriculum required to earn the Graduate Certificate in Engineering Leadership, which includes an industry-based challenge project with multiple mentors. The integrated 33-semester-hour degree and certificate will require 17 hours of advisor-approved bioengineering technical courses.
3. Bioengineering Ph.D. – Overview and Research Areas
Students performing a PhD through the department of Bioengineering will perform required coursework ([Section 3.1](#)), as well as cutting edge research ([Section 3.2](#)) with one of our core and affiliated faculty. The department features four research areas as follows. Students should consult the Bioengineering Research Map for more information about BioE faculty performing research in these areas.

**PhD Research Area 1: Imaging, Instrumentation, and Signal Processing**
The Imaging, Instrumentation and Signal Processing track reflects Northeastern University’s outstanding research profile in developing new technologies for visualizing biological processes and disease. Our department has active federally funded research spanning a broad spectrum of relevant areas in instrument design, contrast agent development, and advanced computational modeling and reconstruction methods. Example research centers include the Chemical Imaging of Living Systems Institute, and the Translational Biophotonics Cluster.

**PhD Research Area 2: Biomechanics, Biotransport and MechanoBiology**
Motion, deformation, and flow of biological systems in response to applied loads elicit biological responses at the molecular and cellular levels that support the physiological function of tissues and organs and drive their adaptation and remodeling. To study these complex interactions, principles of solid, fluid, and transport mechanics must be combined with measures of biological function. The Biomechanics, Biotransport, & MechanoBiology track embraces this approach and leverages the strong expertise of Northeastern faculty attempting to tie applied loads to biological responses at multiple length and time scales.

**PhD Research Area 3: Molecular, Cell, and Tissue Engineering**
Principles for engineering living cells and tissues are essential to address many of the most significant biomedical challenges facing our society today. These application areas include engineering biomaterials to coax and enable stem cells to form functional tissue or to heal damaged tissue; designing vehicles for delivering genes and therapeutics to reach specific target cells to treat a disease; and, uncovering therapeutic strategies to curb pathological cell behaviors and tissue phenotypes. At a more fundamental level, the field is at the nascent stages of understanding how cells make decisions in complex microenvironments and how cells interact with each other and their surrounding environment to organize into complex three-dimensional tissues. Advances will require a multiscale experimental, computational and theoretical approaches spanning molecular-cellular-tissue levels and integration of molecular and physical mechanisms, including the role of mechanical forces.

**PhD Research Area 4: Computational and Systems Biology**
We aim to understand the rules governing emergent systems-level behavior and to use these rules to rationally engineer biological systems. We make quantitative measurements, often at the single cell level, to test different conceptual frameworks and discriminate amongst different classes of models. Our faculty are leaders in developing and applying both theoretical methods, e.g., control theory, and experimental methods, e.g., single-cell proteomics by mass-spec, to biological systems. At the organ and tissue levels, 3D scans acquired through medical imaging methods (e.g. US, CT, MRI, etc.) may be used to reconstruct virtual models of targeted systems. Non-invasive measures of the physiological function can then inform numerical simulations to predict the behavior of biological systems over time, with the goal of estimating the progression towards pathological
endpoints or to test the efficacy of targeted surgical procedures and pharmaceutical treatments (e.g., drug delivery).

3.1 Ph.D. Course Requirements
The following sections explain the course requirements for students entering the bioengineering PhD program with a BS as well as students entering with a Masters (“Advanced Standing”). The normal course-load for Ph.D. students is 8-9 semester hours (SH) per semester. In addition to course work, students must complete the qualifying, proposal, and PhD defense exam sequence described in detail in Section 3. Students should bear in mind that regular research progress is critical to timely completion of their PhD.

3.1.1 Students Entering with BS
Students entering the Bioengineering PhD program with a BS will take a total of 8 courses (32 SH). Three core bioengineering courses (12 SH), two restricted bioengineering technical electives (8 SH), and three unrestricted technical electives (12 SH). Those courses choices are outlined below:

I. Required Core Courses (12 SH):
   - BIOE 6100 Medical Physiology
   - BIOE 7000 Principles of Bioengineering
   - BIOE 6200 Mathematical Methods in Bioengineering

II. Restricted Technical Electives (8 SH):
   - BIOE 5235 Biomedical Imaging
   - BIOE 5410 Molecular Bioengineering
   - BIOE 5420 Cellular Engineering
   - BIOE 5430 Principles and Applications of Tissue Engineering
   - BIOE 5440 The Cell as a Machine
   - BIOE 5630 Physiological Fluid Mechanics
   - BIOE 5648 Biomedical Optics
   - BIOE 5650 Multiscale Biomechanics
   - BIOE 5656 Fields, Forces, and Flows in Biological Systems
   - BIOE 5810 Design of Biomedical Instrumentation
   - BIOE 5820 Biomaterials
   - ME 5665 Musculoskeletal Biomechanics

III. Unrestricted Technical Electives (12 SH):
Any 3 courses on our master list of approved technical electives. This list is included in Appendix A. A list of suggested courses by research area is also included. Other courses may be taken by petition and with approval of Ph.D. Advisor and Ph.D. director.

IV. Professional Development Courses (0 SH):
   Complete the following (repeatable) course four semesters.
   - BIOE 7390 Seminar
V. Dissertation (0 SH):

Complete the following two courses:

BIOE 9900 Dissertation Term 1

BIOE 9991 Dissertation Term 2

After achieving PhD candidacy by passing the qualifying exam, the doctoral candidate, in consultation with his or her research advisor, must register in two consecutive semesters (may include full summer term) for Dissertation Term 1 (BIOE 9990) and Dissertation Term 2 (BIOE 9991). Upon completion of this sequence, the student must then register for Dissertation Continuation (BIOE 9996) in every semester (in each fall and spring term and also in the summer term if summer is the student's last semester) until the dissertation is completed. Students may not register for Dissertation Continuation (BIOE 9996) until they fulfill the two-semester sequence of Dissertation Term 1 (BIOE 9990) and Dissertation Term 2 (BIOE 9991).

To meet the full-time registration requirement for PhD students who have completed the majority of their course work and not yet reached PhD candidacy, a zero-credit course, Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960), can be taken if needed to fulfill the full-time course registration requirement. Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960) is an individual instruction course, billed at 1 semester hour, and graded S or U. Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960) does not have any course content, and students must register in a section for which their research advisor is listed as the “instructor.”

3.1.2 Advanced Entry Students

The curriculum for PhD students with advanced standing will be selected from the available core and elective courses under the guidance of the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies (Ph.D. Program Director) and the student's primary advisor. The advanced standing PhD degree requires a minimum of 16 semester hours (SH) of course work to be approved by the graduate director and a completed PhD dissertation. Advanced standing constitutes receipt of a relevant and accepted master's degree at a qualified institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisor-approved course work</td>
<td>16 SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced seminar (register and complete four semesters)</td>
<td>0 SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation (register and complete two semesters)</td>
<td>0 SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum semester hours required</td>
<td>16 SH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Master List of approved technical electives is included in Appendix B. A list of suggested courses by research area is also included. Electives for Advanced Entry students may be replaced with up to 12 SH of relevant independent studies Independent Study (BIOE 7978) by petition.

3.1.3 Professional Development Course Requirements

Starting Fall 2020, the Bioengineering department is holding weekly PhD student seminars to give student opportunity to present their research to the department. Students will present twice, once in second year, and once is fourth year. The format will be two 20-minute talks with 5 minutes for questions from the audience.

Beginning Fall 2021, the PhD student seminar series will become a new course (BIOE 7391) which students will take twice throughout their degree program.
The primary goal of the PhD student seminars is to give students practice in clear and concise oral communication of research to an audience of educated non-specialists.\(^1\) This is an essential skill for anyone seeking a career in scientific research and beyond. This differs from that of a group meeting or a conference presentation, which are given to audiences of fellow specialists who are already familiar with the field and its specialized terminology. Rather, students will be presenting to a diverse, interdisciplinary group of peers (i.e. the Bioengineering Department and other members of the Northeastern community). A priori familiarity with the area of research therefore cannot be assumed.

By nature, students in their 2nd year will focus on reviewing their area of research and discussing their planned research directions (as opposed to presenting original research). In contrast, students in their 4th year will focus on presenting their dissertation work.

Students should also make every effort to present their research in a way that is accessible to people who are listening rather than viewing. For example, don’t say, "as you can see on this graph", instead, describe clearly what the graph shows.

A secondary goal of the seminar series is to enrich the intellectual environment of the Department of Bioengineering. Students should take the opportunity to attend all seminars and to develop familiarity with research outside of their own groups and research areas.

\(^1\)Some text adapted from: [https://medbio.utoronto.ca/graduate-student-seminars](https://medbio.utoronto.ca/graduate-student-seminars)

3.2 Ph.D. Research Requirements
In addition to coursework (Section 3.1), completion of the PhD degree requires students to successfully complete all the requirements listed below. An example timeline for a PhD student entering with a BS degree is listed in Section 3.3

3.2.1 PhD Laboratory Rotation
All Ph.D. students who are funded by Dean’s Fellowship (DF) or Teaching Assistant (TA) at the time of entry into the program are required to complete a rotation in a minimum of two department research laboratories. At least one of the two rotations must be performed in the laboratory of a core Bioengineering faculty member.

Students should make an appointment to speak with potential research advisors and confirm their willingness to advise and potentially support a student on research assistantship following the rotation. Potential advisors may be found through the Department website, through the Bioengineering Research Map, through the Department Research Fair in September, and by meeting with the PhD Program Director.

Students should complete the PhD Laboratory Rotation Form (Appendix C) and return it to the Academic Coordinator (d.mckaig@northeastern.edu) of the department prior to each lab rotation.

The rotation timeline is as follows (September matriculation):

- **September:** Complete Department Safety Training (Section 1.2, Appendix A) and identify labs for rotation
- **October-December:** First Lab rotation
- **January-March:** Second Lab Rotation
3.2.2 Finding a Research Advisor
Completion of the research dissertation component of the PhD requires that they select a research advisor. A student has formally selected a research advisor when the PhD Research Advisor Declaration Form (Appendix D) is completed, signed by the student and the advisor, and filed with the Academic Coordinator of the Bioengineering department (d.mckaig@northeastern.edu). The research advisor can be any tenured, tenure-track, or affiliated Bioengineering faculty. All PhD students must have a research advisor within one calendar year after their matriculation at NU; otherwise, their status changes to MS course-only track. If, after change of status, these students can find a research advisor, their status will be reset to PhD.

Choice of research advisor that is a mutually “good match” is perhaps one of the most important decisions a PhD student will make. This is typically done on the student’s initiative, before or within the first semester of joining the PhD program. Students should plan to meet with prospective advisors, determine their willingness to take on new students, and ask about research in their labs. Example questions a student might ask in this meeting to determine the potential fit are:

*Are you taking on new students in your group?*
*Do you have a specific project in mind? If so, is that project currently funded by a research grant?*
*What other projects are going on in this the group? Are all the students in your group funded?*
*What are the most important skills to be successful in your group?*
*Would you be able to support me on research assistantship?*
*How often do you meet with your students 1-on-1?*
*Do you have regular lab meetings? Journal club?*
*Do you normally pair a student up with a senior student?*
*How big is your group? How many MS, Ph.D., Postdocs?*
*Are you a ‘hands on’ advisor? If not, who would I go to for help?*
*Can I meet with one of your current grad students?*
*What journals does your group normally publish in?*
*What conference does your group regularly attend?*
*What is your policy on sending students to conferences?*
*What are your expectations for graduation for a Ph.D. in terms of research output?*

3.2.3 Qualifying Exam (written and oral)
In order to continue the PhD Program, students must pass a comprehensive qualifying examination in one of the four department research areas. The qualifying exam is normally taken in the fall semester of the student’s second year. In addition to satisfactory research progress and satisfactory academic standing, students will prepare a 6-page written document. This document needs to demonstrate independent, creative thinking and represent a clear conceptual departure from the student’s PhD thesis and the work of their thesis laboratory. The document should be distributed to his/her qualifying exam committee no later than 7 calendar days before the oral examination.

Please note that it is unacceptable to represent someone else’s writing as your own. The written document must be entirely original and written by the student. Also please note that department tests all written documents for evidence of plagiarism using the Turnitin application as a matter of policy.
Students who fail their qualifying exam on the first attempt may re-take the exam one in the following spring semester. Students may not take the qualifying exam more than twice. More detailed description of the qualifying exam structure and criteria are provided in Appendix E.

**Qualifying Exam Committee:** The qualifying examination committee is composed of three members of the Department of Bioengineering faculty. At least two of three committee members will be from the student’s research area. The student's primary research advisor may not sit on the qualifying exam committee.

### 3.2.4 Ph.D. Dissertation Committee

Within two years of joining the Bioengineering PhD program, students will form their Dissertation committee. The committee should be composed of at least three Northeastern University members. The chair of the committee should be the student’s primary advisor or a member of the Bioengineering core faculty. Two members of the committee must be core faculty from the Bioengineering department. It is highly recommended to have an External Faculty member from another University serve as a member of the committee. Once students have formed their committee, they should complete the PhD Dissertation Committee Form Appendix D and file it with the Academic Coordinator of the department. Students will be required to meet with their PhD Dissertation Committee annually to confirm research progress.

### 3.2.5 Annual Committee Meetings and Dissertation Proposals

Prior to a student’s first committee meeting, they are required to write a dissertation proposal in the form of an NIH-style R21 proposal research plan, to be distributed no later than 1 week prior to the meeting. Annual progress update meetings must be held annually. At the second to last meeting, held at least four months before the Dissertation Defense, the student must prepare and present a final proposal document. The student will be allowed to progress to the PhD Dissertation Defense upon successful defense of this proposal. Students must hold their first Dissertation Committee meeting no later than their third year.

To meet the full-time registration requirement for PhD students who have completed most of their course work and not yet reached PhD candidacy, a zero-credit course, Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960), can be taken if needed to fulfill the full-time course registration requirement. Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960) is an individual instruction course, billed at one semester hour, and graded S or U. Exam Preparation—Doctoral (BIOE 8960) does not have any course content, and students must register in a section for which their research advisor is listed as the “instructor.”

### 3.2.6 Ph.D. Dissertation Defense

All PhD candidates must complete and defend a dissertation of original research in bioengineering. The dissertation examination committee is composed of the same faculty of the Ph.D. Dissertation Committee. In addition, it is highly recommended to have an External Faculty member from another University serve as an ad-hoc member of the committee for the defense.

Please contact BioE Academic Coordinator, Danielle McKaig (d.mckaig@northeastern.edu) no later than four weeks prior to the Dissertation Defense date to coordinate room reservation and advertisement of the defense across the University. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule a date and time of the final oral examination with all the Dissertation Defense Committee members.

Students must send a complete final version of their Ph.D. dissertation to their examination committee no later than two weeks prior to the Defense date. Although students will have an
opportunity to make final revisions to the dissertation and abstract after their Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense), the Final Dissertation version should be a complete high-quality document that follows COE formatting guidelines.

The format of the defense will be that of an open presentation to the Northeastern Bioengineering faculty, students and staff, followed by a closed meeting with their dissertation committee in which candidates are expected to answer all relevant questions regarding their work, its significance and its relationship to ongoing work across the broader research community. The dissertation defense exam is expected to last approximately 2 hours in total.


Students are required to submit a completed signed copy of the Dissertation Signature page to the BioE Academic Coordinator, Danielle McKaig (d.mckaig@northeastern.edu) within 24 hours of the defense. If the examination committee deems that a "conditional pass" is appropriate, the student’s advisor must convey the specific conditions and proposed timeline in writing to the Academic Coordinator and Bioengineering PhD Director within 48 hours of the defense. In certain cases, this action may require additional review by the Bioengineering Graduate Studies Committee.

### 3.3 Example Ph.D. Timeline – Research Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Find Research Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Qualifying exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td>Makeup Qualifying exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Form PhD committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>First Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Dissertation Proposal in R21 format</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Third Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td>PhD Dissertation Defense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Ph.D. Funding

It is the intent and track record of the Department of Bioengineering to ensure continuous funding to all Ph.D. students throughout the tenure of their studies. Most students take about 5 years to earn a Ph.D. and may be funded through a variety of mechanisms including RA and TA awards and external fellowships.
3.4.1 Teaching Assistantships
Teaching assistantships (TAs) are administered by the Department of Bioengineering under the direction of the Business Manager (Esther Cohen). TAs are allocated to a mixture of incoming PhD and senior students advised by tenured and tenure-track Bioengineering faculty. TAs assist Bioengineering instructors in various aspects of teaching including running laboratories and grading assignments, and therefore requires matching of skills with course needs. Students who are funded by TA on entry are required to perform a laboratory rotation (Section 2.2.1) TA funding requests should be made by a student’s research advisor directly to the Business Manager.

3.4.2 Research Assistantships
Research assistantships (RAs) are paid by research advisors to students, normally from research grants to support their dissertation research. RAs are renewable on a semester basis, pending satisfactory research progress and availability of funding. Students should discuss expectations for satisfactory progress with their advisor but can expect a minimum of 20 hours per week spent on research.

3.4.3 Arranging Payment
Step 1: If you are an international student and you do not have a Social Security Number, the Graduate School of Engineering will produce an “Engagement Form” for you. This form is provided to the Office of Global Services (OGS) on campus so that they can process a Social Security Number for you. If you are a newly admitted student, the “Engagement Form” will have been provided to the Office of Global Services for your arrival check-in. Otherwise, please request the Engagement Form from the Graduate School of Engineering.

Step 2: All students: Visit the Student Employment Office at 101 Curry Student Center and complete a Direct Deposit Authorization Form and a Form W-4 for tax purposes.

Step 3: All students: Your stipend will be paid directly into your bank account on the 15th and the 30th or 31st of each month during which you hold your assistantship. If your Direct Deposit has not yet been set up, you will collect your paper paycheck at the Human Resources office at 716 Columbus Avenue.

4. Statement on Academic Integrity
Throughout your MS and PhD education you will be required to write frequently - this includes assignments, essays, tests, and written exams for your courses, and journal papers, texts, conference abstracts and papers related to your research. Please note that under absolutely no circumstances is it permitted to present another student's or scholar's work as one's own, it is also not permissible to copy computer code in your courses. With computer programming there can at times be a fine line between collaboration and copying/duplication of work. In the end you are responsible for any work you hand in and may be asked to explain it to the instructor, so do not hand in anything you do not understand! In the case of improper collaboration, penalties may be assessed to all students involved.

Plagiarism from journals, texts or websites will not be tolerated; they will be dealt with under the discretion of the course instructor and the Graduate Director. Also please note that assignments and written exams may be tested by the instructor or examination committees using plagiarism detection apps such as Turnitin.

If you any have doubts in a specific situation about what level of collaboration is acceptable, ask your instructor or advisor!
5. **Petition and Registration Override Procedures**

Please note the following:

1. Petitions/overrides for taking courses must be filed and approved BEFORE registration in the course.
2. Filing a petition/override does not mean that it will be approved, you need to receive the approval to go ahead.
3. Please file your petitions/overrides well in advance. Processing a petition/override takes at least 7 business days.
4. When submitting your petition/override make sure it is completed and signed by you. If you have a research advisor, the form must be signed by him/her as well. If the signature of the instructor is needed (for override forms), please make sure that you obtain the signature.
5. All petitions/overrides must be submitted with a copy of your current transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for this purpose.

Here are the steps for filing petitions/overrides:

1. To file a petition:
   (a) Download the petition form from [here](#).
   (b) Complete the form, sign it, and get other necessary signatures as described in Step 4 above.
   (c) Submit both to the front desk of the Graduate School (Snell 130)
2. To file a registration override form (these forms are used to register in courses that have restrictions:
   (a) Download the override form from [here](#).
   (b) Complete the form and get the necessary signatures as explained in Step 4 above.
   (c) If the form is for pre-requisite waiver, get the signature of the instructor too.
   (d) Submit both to front desk of the Graduate School (Snell 130)

6. **Probation Policies and Procedures**

**One academic term with cumulative GPA below 3.000:** Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.000 for one term are required to complete an [Academic Probation Action Plan](#) to be signed and approved by their academic advisor and submitted to the Graduate School within 7 business days from the start of the next academic term.

**Two consecutive terms with cumulative GPA below 3.000:** Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.000 for two consecutive terms will be dismissed from their degree program at the end of the second term. Students in this situation may submit an [Academic Dismissal Appeal Form](#) to the Graduate School to request a final one-term extension. The appeal will be reviewed by the student’s department.

**Three consecutive terms with cumulative GPA below 3.000:** Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.000 for three consecutive terms will automatically be dismissed from their degree program. In this case, the student may submit an appeal to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School per the University appeals process.

For more information, please refer to the College of Engineering [website](#).

7. **Policies and Procedures for Course Transfer**

Graduate students can transfer a maximum of 9 SH (or equivalent) course work from other institutions. 4 SH of course work is defined as 45 hours of lecture. For credit transfer from other institutions, the following conditions must be satisfied:
1. Student should have a grade of at least B (or equivalent) in the course.
2. The course must be passed during the past seven years.
3. The course should not be part of the requirements of a degree received by the student in the past.
4. The course will be reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee and should be approved as equivalent to a graduate-level Northeastern course that students can take as part of their degree program.

The process for transfer credit requires filing a petition (see Section 4). The petition should be accompanied by the detailed syllabus of the course (including textbook information) and the equivalent NU course as well as sufficient evidence that the course has not been part of the requirements of a degree received by the student. Evidence should be noted on the transcripts or be sent in a letter/formal email from the Student Service Coordinator (or equivalent) confirming credits were not used towards a degree in the former institution.

8. Policies and Procedures for Requesting Changes in the Graduate Program
In general, changes to the graduate program are possible after completing at least one semester at Northeastern. This gives the students an opportunity to get accurate information about each program in order to make an informed decision. The only request for change in the program that is accepted during the first semester is change from full-time to part-time or from part-time to full-time. This change does not apply to those who hold an F-1 student visa.

1. Change from FT to PT or PT to FT. This is the only change that can be petitioned during the first semester. To request this change you need to file a petition as explained in Section 4. FT PhD students cannot change to PT before having a research advisor. Change from FT to PT for international students is only possible if it complies with the Office of Global Services rules.

For International Students Only: An approved change of program requires that a new I-20 be issued. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate the I-20 process. Instructions are provided on the official admission acceptance letter. Questions should be directed to the International Student and Scholar Institute on campus.

2. Change from PhD to MS: Students need to file a Change in Degree Level form and submit it with your transcripts to the front desk of the Graduate School. Students need to get the signature of their research advisor on this form.

8. Annual Individual Development Plan Guidelines
All BioE PhD students are required to complete an Individual Development Plan annually. An Individual Development Plan (IDP) is a planning tool designed to help PhD students identify annual progress, professional development needs, and career objectives. It also serves as a valuable communication tool between PhD students and their research advisor.

Students will receive a link to the submission portal and will have 30 days to complete the submission. Once the submission has been submitted it will go to the students’ faculty advisor for review. Students will need to register for a COE account before logging in. To create a COE account you will need to email help@coe.neu.edu Please note: COE account registration can take up to five days since it is done manually by the COE IT Department.
Students that were on any type of leave for the entire year are not required to complete the IDP. If you were on leave for part of the year, you still need to submit an IDP to be reviewed.

Students that receive an overall merit review that does not meet expectations will be subject to review by the Graduate Studies Committee.

9. Co-op & Experiential Learning
Coop and internship are forms of CPT (Curricular Practical Training) that allow full-time students to integrate a practical learning experience into their graduate program. Internship is an option for PhD students only to provide them with work experience that is integral to the student’s education, i.e., required for their dissertation research. Internship provides the opportunity to further the students’ training and knowledge in an area central to the advancement of their research. It does not refer to an “internship” as used by companies, agencies and other institutions. Examples include students working at a company, government lab or other entity whereby the tasks, data, protocols, etc. will be brought back to NU and used in an integral way in the advisor’s lab and the student’s research. Coop is available to all graduate students and its goal is to provide students with actual work experience in their field of study and need not be research oriented (though it often is).

9.1 Eligibility
To start the co-op search process, College of Engineering graduate students must:
1. Be enrolled full-time at Northeastern University.
2. Meet all English-language requirements described in the table below.
3. Meet the minimum GPA for their program described in the table below, as applicable.
4. Have no disciplinary or academic probation issues and no incomplete courses (i.e., no I grade in their records).
5. Have at least one term left in their program after completing co-op (i.e., students must return to Northeastern to take courses for at least one term prior to graduating)
6. Have a valid I-20 (for international students).
7. Have completed their first full time semester with a minimum of 8SH completed.
8. Be enrolled in or have completed the Career Management for Engineers (ENCP 6000) or Introduction to Cooperative Education (ENCP 6100) course (depending on their major).
9. Complete a COE Co-op Application and receive Co-op Coordinator approval to initiate a co-op job search.

To participate in Co-op, College of Engineering graduate students must:
1. Meet the minimum semester-hour requirements of 16SH completed as described in the table below.
2. Successfully complete the Career Management for Engineers (ENCP 6000) or Introduction to Cooperative Education (ENCP 6100) (depending on their major).
3. Receive Co-op Coordinator approval prior to accepting a co-op job offer.
4. Meet all the additional requirements as listed above for starting the co-op search process.

9.2 Applying for Co-op:
1. Graduate students must declare their intention to participate in the co-op process by completing an Application Form (found here). The Application Form should be completed
and submitted in person to the student’s co-op coordinator early in the semester prior to co-op (appointments to do so can be scheduled through the MyNEU calendar).

2. When the student receives an offer of employment for a co-op, he/she should meet with their co-op faculty coordinator to discuss the opportunity prior to accepting the offer or agreeing to co-op dates. If not in NUcareers, an electronic copy of the employer information and position description should be submitted to the co-op faculty coordinator. An offer letter should also be submitted. The co-op faculty coordinator will place the student in NUcareers. For F-1 visa students, items 3–7 apply.

3. The co-op faculty coordinator will check the student’s I-20 end date. If the I-20 end date allows the co-op to be completed prior to the end date, students can submit a CPT Request downloadable from the OGS site. The co-op coordinator will approve the request or let the student know if edits need to be made and then send the final request to OGS for processing.

4. The Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee will approve the request and forward to Graduate Student Services. The student will receive final approval by email.

10. Campus Map

Web Address: https://www.northeastern.edu/campusmap/map/index.html
Key Bioengineering Buildings:
The Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Complex (ISEC)
Many of the labs and most of our Bioengineering faculty have offices on the second and third floors. The Bioengineering department administrative offices are in 206 ISEC.

Snell Engineering Center
The College of Engineering Graduate Student Services Office is located in 130 Snell.

Mugar Life Sciences Building
Several Bioengineering labs are in Mugar.

Egan Research center
Raytheon Amphitheater is a popular spot for events. The building houses many other events and seminar rooms.

Curry Student Center
Shop in the Northeastern bookstore for textbooks and school supplies, and clothing adorned with the Northeastern logo. There is also the largest food court on campus and a Starbucks.

Labs:
Faculty members have lab spaces in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amini</td>
<td>456 Snell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthagiri</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bajpayee</td>
<td>260B, 262C ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellini</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chung</td>
<td>020 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>271 TF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dai</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fang</td>
<td>020 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Levine</td>
<td>Mugar 415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Levine</td>
<td>177 Huntington Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li</td>
<td>373 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makowski</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minkara</td>
<td>306 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niedre</td>
<td>020 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakes</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameswaran</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rouhanifard</td>
<td>378 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruberti</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shefelbine</td>
<td>260-272 ISEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavov</td>
<td>Mugar 111 &amp; 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaseen</td>
<td>045 ISEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Popular Coffee Spots
Cafe Strega – ISEC Lobby
Dunkin Donuts - Hayden Hall, Shillman Hall
Starbucks Coffee – Curry Student Center
Pavement Coffeehouse - 44 Gainsborough St
Render Coffee - 563 Columbus Ave
Thinking Cup - 165 Tremont
Tatte Bakery and Café - 369 Huntington Ave
Oakleaf Cakes Bake Shop - 12 Westland Ave
Caffe Nero - 114 New Edgerly Rd

11. Other Useful links
   ● Academic Integrity
   ● Code of Student Conduct
   ● BioE Department Website
   ● BioE Facebook
   ● BioE Twitter
   ● BioE Instagram
   ● BioE LinkedIn
   ● Graduate School of Engineering
   ● Official University Calendars
   ● Registrar’s Office
   ● University Health and Counseling Services
   ● General Graduate Forms
   ● NU Graduate Catalogue
12. Bioengineering Faculty and Staff

Rouzbeh Amini
Associate Professor, Bioengineering
Jointly appointed with Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
Research Overview: Biomechanics, mechanobiology, biotransport
Research Projects: In-vivo Assessment of Human Iris Mechanical Properties
Principal Investigator, BrightFocus Foundation
Multiscale Model of Tricuspid Valve Repair Surgery Principal Investigator, American Heart Association
508 ISEC, r.amini@northeastern.edu

Anand Asthagiri
Associate Professor, Bioengineering
The Asthagiri lab elucidates principals for engineering living cells and tissues. These design principals provide a foundation for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Understanding the disassembly of multicellular structures sheds new insights into cancer development and helps to identify therapeutic strategies to re-shape diseased tissue.
226 ISEC, a.asthagiri@northeastern.edu

Ambika Bajpayee
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Targeted drug delivery to connective and charged tissues. Her lab utilizes concepts of nanomedicine and bio-electrostatics to design polypeptides and protein-based carriers for targeted and sustained delivery of small molecule drugs, protein growth factors, antibodies and genetic materials to specific intra-tissue and intra-cellular target sites inside connective tissues.
216 ISEC, a.bajpayee@northeastern.edu

Chiara Bellini
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Diseases of the cardiovascular system; effects of cell mediated growth and remodeling processes on tissue and organ mechanics
228 ISEC, c.bellini@northeastern.edu
Samuel Chung  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches central nervous system regeneration model in C. elegans, femtosecond laser surgery; user-friendly and low-cost fluorescence microscopy.  
218 ISEC, s.chung@northeastern.edu

Heather Clark  
Professor, Bioengineering  
Jointly appointed in Bioengineering & Chemistry and Chemical Biology.  
Researches Optical nanosensors for biological analysis.  
316 ISEC, H.Clark@northeastern.edu

Guohao Dai  
Associate Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches 3-D bioprinting technology, stem cells technology and vascular bioengineering.  
224 ISEC, g.dai@northeastern.edu

Eno Ebong  
Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering  
Researches the means by which endothelial cell mechanotransduction occurs in order to prevent or promote diseases related to blood vessel dysfunction.  
221 ISEC, e.ebong@northeastern.edu  
Eborg Laboratory

Qianqian Fang  
Associate Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches innovations in translational medical imaging devices to better diagnose cancers, low-cost point-of-care diagnostic tools to delivery life-saving medicines to the resource-poor regions, and high-performance computing tools to facilitate the development of the next-generation imaging methods.  
223 ISEC, q.fang@northeastern.edu
Michael Jaeggli  
Mathworks Faculty Fellow and Assistant Teaching Professor, Bioengineering  
206D ISEC, m.jaeggli@northeastern.edu

Timothy Lannin  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Bioengineering  
Professor Lannin’s previous research included work on automating image analysis of cancer cells, measuring the electrical properties of cancer cells to use electric fields to separate them from blood cells, and measuring the electrical properties of algae cells to optimize their output for biofuels.  
206A ISEC, t.lannin@northeastern.edu

Erel Levine  
Associate Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches the analysis of big biological data by developing statistical physics approaches to deep learning; statistical learning approaches to the dynamics, plasticity and evolvability of small regulatory RNA; host-pathogen interaction: in-host dynamics and inter-species systems biology  
e.levine@northeastern.edu

Herbert Levine  
University Distinguished Professor, Bioengineering and Physics  
Studies mechanics of motility at both single cell and multicellular levels, genetic and metabolic networks underlying phenotypic changes en route to cancer metastasis, effective detection by and activation of the adaptive immune system  
h.levine@northeastern.edu

Jiahe Li  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches synthetic biology, drug delivery, polymeric materials and vaccine  
225 ISEC, jiah.li@northeastern.edu
Elizabeth Libby  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
She is leading efforts in synthetic biology to develop new genetic circuits and cell-based detectors.

Mingyang Lu  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
Uses systems biology approaches to uncover the underlying principles governing the operation of genetic networks. Integrates computational modeling and data analysis to elucidate the relationship among robustness of network dynamics, stochasticity in gene expression and heterogeneity in cancer evolution.  
m.lu@northeastern.edu

Lee Makowski  
Professor and Chair, Bioengineering  
Jointly appointed with Chemistry & Chemical Biology.  
Researches image and signal processing as applied to biophysical data designed to answer fundamental questions about the molecular basis of living systems  
206B ISEC, L.Makowski@northeastern.edu

Helen Markewich  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Dr. Markewich’s specialty is lab-based and hands-on learning. She received her PhD from Cornell University and her BS from Georgia Tech. She also worked in biotech and in the water industry.  
254B Richards Hall, h.markewich@northeastern.edu

Mona Minkara  
Assistant Professor of Bioengineering  
Using computational methods, such as Monte Carlo and molecular dynamics simulations, to obtain a fundamental understanding of molecular interactions that occur at biological interfaces, such as the pulmonary surfactant system  
325 ISEC, m.minkara@northeastern.edu  
For more information, check out Dr. Minkara’s website at https://www.monaminkara.com
Mark Niedre
Professor and Associate Chair for Research, Bioengineering
Prof. Niedre researches and finds interest in biomedical optics and non-invasive imaging, rare cell detection and tracking in the body, ultrafast time-domain diffuse optical imaging, image reconstruction and biomedical signal processing.
217 ISEC, m.niedre@northeastern.edu

Jessica Oakes
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Researches pulmonary physiology, biofluids and transport phenomenon, computational biomechanics, magnetic resonance imaging, and multi-scale modeling.
229 ISEC, j.oakes@northeastern.edu

Harikrishnan Parameswaran
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
In-situ interactions of organized cellular structures in tissue with their extracellular matrix (ECM); airway smooth muscle-ECM interactions under static and dynamic stretch conditions.
219 ISEC, h.parameswaran@northeastern.edu

Sara Rouhanifard
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Interested in, and researching developing chemical approaches to track and quantify important RNA processing events and modifications in single cells; DNA: protein interactions that drive differences in gene expression; understanding differences in RNA expression and the impacts on disease and development.
220 ISEC, sa.rouhanifard@northeastern.edu

Jeffrey W. Ruberti
Professor, Bioengineering
Researches tissue engineering of load-bearing matrix (bone, cornea), bioreactor design, multi-scale mechanobiochemistry, statistical mechanics, energetics microscopy, high-resolution imaging; and biopolymer self-assembly.
215 ISEC, j.ruberti@northeastern.edu
Sandra Shefelbine  
Associate Professor, Bioengineering  
Jointly appointed with Mechanical & Industrial Engineering  
Researches multi-scale bone biomechanics – how the structure and composition of bone influences its mechanical properties; mechanoadaptation of bone and joint – how tissue responds to mechanical signals.  
222 ISEC, s.shefelbine@northeastern.edu

Shiaoming Shi  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Bioengineering  
Cancer detection and drug discovery technologies  
230 ISEC, s.shi@northeastern.edu

Nikolai Slavov  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
Researches single-cell proteomics, Ribosome-mediated translational regulation, and quantitative systems biology. Most recently Slavov lab developed a high-throughput method for single cell proteomics by mass spectrometry and used it to quantify proteome heterogeneity during cell differentiation.  
334 MU, n.slavov@northeastern.edu

Eduardo Sontag  
University Distinguished Professor, Bioengineering  
Jointly appointed in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Bioengineering. Researches feedback control theory, systems biology, cancer, and biomedicine.  
326 ISEC, e.sontag@northeastern.edu

Mohammad Abbas Yaseen  
Assistant Professor, Bioengineering  
Research Focus: Advanced microscopy for minimally invasive, in vivo characterization of brain function  
Research Projects: Relating neuroimmune and neurovascular alterations during Alzheimer’s Disease progression Principal Investigator, National Institute of Health  
Near Infrared Fluorescence Imaging of Reactive Oxygen Species in Alzheimer’s Disease Co-Investigator, National Institute of Health  
m.yaseen@northeastern.edu
**Staff**

**Esther Cohen**  
Business Manager  
e.cohen@northeastern.edu  
206C ISEC

**Noah Joseph**  
Lab Technician  
n.joseph@northeastern.edu  
057 Richards Hall

**Ian Armstrong**  
Lab Ops & Safety Manager  
i.armstrong@northeastern.edu  
617-373-8591  
234 ISEC

**Danielle McKaig**  
Academic Coordinator  
d.mckaig@northeastern.edu  
206 ISEC

**Prachi Shah**  
Administrative Assistant  
pr.shah@northeastern.edu  
206 ISEC
Appendix A.  Bioengineering Department Safety Training
All PhD students and MS students who plan to perform laboratory research are required to complete the basic Department of Bioengineering laboratory safety program, plus any additional lab-specific safety training. Students are strongly advised to complete this training in the first month following matriculation. For more information please contact the Lab Operations and Safety Manager Ian Armstrong (i.armstrong@northeastern.edu)
## Appendix B. Suggested PhD Electives by Research Area and Master Electives List

### Area 1 – Imaging, Instrumentation, and Signal Processing
- BIOE 5235 Biomedical Imaging
- BIOE 5810 Design of Biomedical Instrumentation
- EECE 5606 Micro- and Nanofabrication
- EECE 5639 Computer Vision
- EECE 5642 Data Visualization
- EECE 5644 Machine Learning
- EECE 5648 Biomedical Optics
- EECE 5664 Biomedical Signal Processing
- EECE 5666 Digital Signal Processing
- EECE 7105 Optics for Engineers
- EECE 7200 Linear Systems Analysis
- EECE 7202 Electromagnetic Theory 1
- EECE 7203 Complex Variable Theory and Differential Equations
- EECE 7204 Applied Probability and Stochastic Processes
- EECE 7211 Nonlinear Control
- EECE 7271 Computational Methods in Electromagnetics

### Area 2 - Biomechanics, Biotransport and MechanoBiology
- BIOE 5650 Multiscale Biomechanics
- BIOE 5656 Fields, Forces, and Flows in Biological Systems
- BIOE 5820 Biomaterials
- BIOL 5601 Multidisciplinary Approaches to Motor Control
- BIOL 5587 Comparative Neurobiology
- IE 7280 Statistical Methods in Engineering
- IE 7315 Human Factors
- ME 5250 Robot Mechanics and Control
- ME 5650 Advanced Mechanics of Material
- ME 5655 Dynamics and Mechanical Vibration
- ME 5657 Finite Element Method
- ME 5659 Control Systems Engineering
- ME 5665 Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
- ME 7210 Elasticity and Plasticity
- ME 7238 Advanced Finite Element Method
- ME 7255 Continuum Mechanics
- PT 5139 Lab
- PT 5150 Motor Control, Development and Learning

### Area 3 – Molecular, Cell, and Tissue Engineering
- BIOE 5410 Molecular Bioengineering
- BIOE 5430 Principles and Applications of Tissue Engineering
- BIOL 5543 Stem Cells and Regeneration
- BIOE 5650 Multiscale Biomechanics
- BIOE 5820 Biomaterials
- BIOL 6401 Research Methods and Critical Analysis in Molecular Cell Biology
CHEM 5612  Principles of Mass Spectrometry
CHME 5699  Nanomaterials
CHME 5699  Advanced topics in Biomaterials
CHME 5630  Biochemical Engineering
CHME 5699  Bioanalytical Sensors
PMST 6254  Advanced Drug Delivery System
PHSC 6214  Experimental Design and Biostatics

*Area 4 – Computational and Systems Biology*
BIOE 5115  Dynamical Systems in Biological Engineering
BIOE 7500  Methods and Logic in Systems Biology
### Appendix B Continued - Master List of Approved BioE PhD Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOE 5235</td>
<td>Biomedical Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOE 5250</td>
<td>Design, Manufacture, and Evaluation of Medical Devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5320</td>
<td>Advanced Biomedical Measurements and Instrumentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5380</td>
<td>Advanced Biomolecular Dynamics and Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5410</td>
<td>Molecular Bioengineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5420</td>
<td>Cellular Engineering</td>
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<td>BIOE 5430</td>
<td>Principles and Applications of Tissue Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5440</td>
<td>The Cell as a Machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5450</td>
<td>Stem Cell Engineering</td>
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<td>BIOE 5630</td>
<td>Physiological Fluid Mechanics</td>
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<td>BIOE 5640</td>
<td>Computational Biomechanics</td>
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<td>BIOE 5650</td>
<td>Multiscale Biomechanics</td>
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<td>BIOE 5656</td>
<td>Fields, Forces, and Flows in Biological Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOE 5810</td>
<td>Design of Biomedical Instrumentation</td>
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<td>BIOE 5820</td>
<td>Biomaterials</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BIOE 7200</td>
<td>Special Topics in Cell and Tissue Engineering</td>
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<td>BIOE 7300</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biomechanics</td>
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<td>BIOE 7500</td>
<td>Methods and Logic in Systems Biology</td>
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<td>BIOL 5307</td>
<td>Biological Electron Microscopy</td>
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<td>BIOL 5543</td>
<td>Stem Cells and Regeneration</td>
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<td>BIOL 5601</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Approaches in Motor Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 6300</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
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<td>BIOL 6301</td>
<td>Molecular Cell Biology</td>
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<td>BIOL 6401</td>
<td>Research Methods and Critical Analysis in Molecular Cell Biology</td>
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<td>CAEP 6202</td>
<td>Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis</td>
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<td>CHEM 5620</td>
<td>Protein Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 5621</td>
<td>Principles of Chemical Biology for Chemists</td>
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<td>CHEM 5638</td>
<td>Molecular Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 5660</td>
<td>Analytical Biochemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 7247</td>
<td>Advances in Nanomaterials</td>
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<td>CHEM 7317</td>
<td>Analytical Biotechnology</td>
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<td>CHME 5630</td>
<td>Biochemical Engineering</td>
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<td>CS 5100</td>
<td>Foundations of Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<td>CS 5200</td>
<td>Database Management Systems</td>
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<td>CS 5310</td>
<td>Computer Graphics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS 5330</td>
<td>Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision</td>
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<td>CS 5335</td>
<td>Robotic Science and Systems</td>
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<td>CS 5400</td>
<td>Principles of Programming Language</td>
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<td>CS 5600</td>
<td>Computer Systems</td>
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<td>CS 5800</td>
<td>Algorithms</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS 6140</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS 6200</td>
<td>Information Retrieval</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS 6410</td>
<td>Compilers</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECE 5606</td>
<td>Micro- and Nanofabrication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EECE 5642</td>
<td>Data Visualization (new)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECE 5648</td>
<td>Biomedical Optics</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECE 5664</td>
<td>Biomedical Signal Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EECE 7200</td>
<td>Linear Systems Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EECE 7202   Electromagnetic Theory 1
EECE 7203   Complex Variable Theory and Differential Equations
EECE 7204   Applied Probability and Stochastic Processes
EECE 7205   Fundamentals of Computer Engineering
EECE 7211   Nonlinear Control
EECE 7213   System Identification and Adaptive Control
EECE 7214   Optimal and Robust Control
EECE 7271   Computational Methods in Electromagnetics
EECE 7310   Modern Signal Processing
EECE 7323   Numerical Optimization Methods
EECE 7337   Information Theory
EECE 7352   Computer Architecture
EECE 7353   VLSI Design
EECE 7364   Mobile and Wireless Networking
EECE 7368   High-Level Design of Hardware-Software Systems
IE 7315    Human Factors Engineering
ME 5650    Advanced Mechanics of Materials
ME 5655    Dynamics and Mechanical Vibration
ME 5657    Finite Element Method
ME 5659    Control Systems Engineering
ME 5665    Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
ME 6200    Mathematical Methods for Mechanical Engineers 1
ME 6260    Introduction to Microelectromechanical Systems (MEMS)
ME 7210    Elasticity and Plasticity
ME 7238    Advanced Finite Element Method
ME 7245    Fracture Mechanics and Failure Analysis
ME 7255    Continuum Mechanics
ME 7275    Essentials of Fluid Dynamics
NNMD 5470   Nano/Biomedical Commercialization: Concept to Market
OR 6205    Deterministic Operations Research
PHSC 5100   Concepts in Pharmaceutical Science
PHSC 6210   Drug Design, Evaluation, and Development
PHSC 6218   Biomedical Chemical Analysis
PHSC 6290   Biophysical Methods in Drug Discovery
PHYS 7301   Classical Mechanics/Math Methods
PHYS 7321   Computational Physics
PHYS 7741   Biological Physics 2
PMST 6250   Advanced Physical Pharmacy
PMST 6252   Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism
PMST 6254   Advanced Drug Delivery System
PT 5138    Neuroscience
PT 5139    Lab for PT 5138
PT 5150    Motor Control, Development, and Learning
PT 5151    Lab for PT 5150
SLPA 5111   Anatomy and Physiology of the Auditory System
SLPA 6301   Speech Science
Appendix C. Laboratory Rotation Form (Following Page)
Graduate Student Lab Rotation Allocation Form

Rotation mentors must be a Core Faculty or Affiliated Faculty of the Bioengineering Department. The rotation is an opportunity to determine if the lab is a good ‘fit’ for both mentor and the student. Students are expected to do 2 rotations and should choose a mentor and program by the beginning of Spring Term.

- MENTOR
  Name ____________________________________
  Primary Admin Dept. _____________________
  Phone _______________ Email ______________
  Graduate Program Affiliation (mark all that apply)

- FUNDING (check one)
  ❏ I have funding to support this student if he/she joins my lab.
  Grant number: ___________ Expiration date: ___________
  ❏ Grant application is submitted/scored. I expect to have funding to support this student.
  ❏ I will not have funding, but my department has agreed to support this student for years.
  ❏ I will not have funding to support this student joining my lab.

  If you will not have funding, you and the student should discuss, and explain below, why you think this rotation is justified (e.g. the student wishes to learn a specific technique)

- PROJECT (check one)

  Please provide a brief description of the project the student will be working on during their rotation.

- SIGNATURES

  Mentor ___________________________ Date _______________
  Graduate Student Advisor ___________________________ Date _______________
  Student ___________________________ Date _______________
Graduate Student Post-Lab Evaluation Form

This form is to be filled out by lab rotation advisors after rotation student have completed each rotation. Please return to the Bioengineering Academic Coordinator (Danielle McKaig, d.mckaig@northeastern.edu) upon completion and prior to starting the next rotation/declaring a lab.

To be completed by the student:
Rotation advisor’s name:

Student name:

Rotation number:

Brief summary of what was accomplished during the rotation (1-3 sentences):

To be completed by the rotation advisor (PI):
Ratings (1 to 5, with 1 being need further development and 5 being best)
Responsible, shows up to lab ____________
Works hard when in lab ____________
Understands what he/she is doing and can summarize ____________
Can execute experiments / analyze data / develop methods with minimal guidance
______________
Critical thinker ____________
Independently reads the relevant background literature______________

Strengths of this student in the lab:

Please discuss what this student should work on to be successful in the PhD program:

Signature of rotation advisor (PI): ________________________________
Signature of student: ________________________________
Appendix D. PhD Advisor Declaration Form (Following Page)
Northeastern University
Department of Bioengineering

PhD Advisor Declaration/Advisor Change Request Form

Student Name

NUID# ________________________________ E-mail Address ________________________________

Advisor Declaration

Advisor Name (print) ________________________________________________________________

Department ________________________________________________________________

Semester/Year Advisor’s RA Support to Begin ______________________________________

*Advisor’s Index Number(s) for first two semesters of RA support ________________________________

Proposed Advisor’s Signature __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Advisor Change Request

Current Advisor Name (print) __________________________________________________________

Department ________________________________________________________________

Current Advisor’s Signature __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Proposed New Advisor’s Name (print): ______________________________________________

Department ________________________________________________________________

Proposed New Advisor’s Signature: __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Semester/Year New Advisor’s RA Support to Begin _____________________________________

*New Advisor’s Index Number(s) for first two semesters of RA support ________________________________

Proposed New Advisor’s Signature: __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Student Signature __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Approved by Bioengineering Graduate Director ______________________________________ Date ________________

*Note to Advisor: Index numbers for advisor’s support of subsequent semesters will be required at the time of SGA appointment requests.

After completing this form, submit it to the Academic Coordinator, Danielle Freshnock (dfreshnock@northeastern.edu) Bioengineering Office, ISEC 205, and save a copy for your records.
Appendix E. Bioengineering Qualifying Exam, Structure and Criteria

Timing and Organization
i) To be taken in Fall of 2nd year (typical)
ii) In one of 4 subject areas
   1) Imaging, Instrumentation, and Signal Processing
   2) Biomechanics, Biotransport and MechanoBiology
   3) Molecular, Cell, and Tissue Engineering
   4) Computational and Systems Biology
iii) Exam committee will be composed of three faculty, at least one of whom must be core Bioengineering faculty
iv) Evaluation process:
   1) There will be a tentative evaluation during the exam (BioE Grading Rubric below).
   2) At the end of ‘exam period’ the committee meets and decides on pass/fail for each student
   3) The advisor may attend the meeting and provide input on the student’s research progress.
      The advisor may also provide their input in writing before the meeting.
v) There will be a makeup exam in the Spring semester.
vi) Students may take the exam only twice.

II. Exam Structure and Requirements
i) The qualifying exam committee will provide a list of 6 papers in the students’ subject area
ii) Students will submit their top 3 choices based on their interest and knowledge. They will be assigned 1 paper (best match) approximately 4 weeks before the exam.
iii) Students will prepare a 6-page (maximum) written document 1 week before the oral exam
iv) The written document will be in two parts:
   1) Summary, review and critique of the paper* (3 pages)
   2) A short research proposal (1-2 Aims) that builds on the selected paper (3 pages)
v) The oral exam will be maximum 2 hours in length. The student will present and be questioned on their written document.
vi) Immediately following the exam, the committee will complete the preliminary evaluation form. The evaluation rubric for the exam is included on the next pages for the student’s reference.
vii) Students will not be informed of the result of the exam until after the final meeting. Advisors have the opportunity to provide input at or before the final review meeting.
Northeastern Bioengineering Grading Rubric for Ph.D. Qualifying Exam

**To be filled out by the Exam committee chair in consultation with the exam committee**

Student Name:

Date:

Examiners present:

General Instructions:

- This assessment should be completed by the exam committee immediately after the oral qualification exam without the student present.
- Oral exam will be conducted in two parts,
  a. comprehension of the selected paper, and,
  b. the proposal.
- Students will be assigned a score from 1 to 9 for each section, 1 = “outstanding”, 9 = “unacceptable”, 5 = “average”
- Students will not be informed of the exam result on the day of the exam.

1. Exam Part I: Journal paper

1a) Did the student demonstrate understanding the underlying scientific premise of the paper?
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1b) Did the student understand the relevant methods, assays, imaging modalities etc. involved in the experiments?
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1c) Did the student understand the key results and their scientific significance?
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1d) Did the student critically examine the conclusions of the study?
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1e) Overall, what was the students' level of comprehension of their selected paper?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1f) Other comments for Part 1:

2. Presentation section:

Exam Part 2 – Proposal:

This proposal represents a conceptual departure from the thesis lab work—TRUE
FALSE
FALSE selection results in an automatic fail. Example of proposals that are not acceptable:
1. The proposal mirrors thesis work with a different model system
2. The proposal applies the core technology of thesis laboratory to the analyzed paper

2a) Is the proposed work a rational extension or application of the paper presented?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2b) Significance: Did the proposal clearly address the significance of their proposal, and explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge and/or technical capability?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2c) Scientific approach and rigor: Was the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2d) Quality of oral presentation: Clarity, quality of presentation materials etc.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2e) Quality of written proposal: Proper references, grammar, structure, adherence to page limits:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2f) Overall proposal assessment:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2g) Other comments for part 2:

Preliminary Exam Result: Fail Pass
Appendix F.  PhD Dissertation Committee Form (Following Page)
Northeastern University Department of Bioengineering Doctoral Degree in Bioengineering

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Form

Name: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

NUID: ____________________________

Dissertation Committee Composition:
The Dissertation Committee composition will adhere to the following guidelines: The dissertation committee should be composed of a minimum of three members, at least one of whom must be core Bioengineering faculty. In addition, at least two of the committee members must be either core or affiliated Bioengineering faculty.

Committee Member Name (print):_________________________ Department:__________
Signature:____________________________________________

Committee Member Name (print):_________________________ Department:__________
Signature:____________________________________________

Committee Member Name (print):_________________________ Department:__________
Signature:____________________________________________

Committee Member Name (print):_________________________ Department:__________
Signature:____________________________________________

Committee Member Name (print):_________________________ Department:__________
Signature:____________________________________________

Student’s Signature_________________________________________ Date:______________
_____________________________________________________________

Approved by Bioengineering Graduate Director____________________ Date:______________
_____________________________________________________________

After completing this form please submit it to the BioE Academic Coordinator, Danielle McKaig (d.mckaig@northeastern.edu) and save a copy for your records.
Appendix G. Industrial PhD - Best Practices and Recommendations

Coursework Requirements
The coursework requirements for Industrial PhD students follow the normal degree requirements (Bioengineering Graduate Handbook Section 3.1).

**Advanced Entry Students:** Most Industrial PhD students have ‘advanced entry’ (AE) status, meaning that they have an MS in a related field, which significantly reduces course requirements (16 Semester Hours or 4 Courses). Some AE Industrial PhD students are unable to be physically on campus where most of our department courses are offered. In these cases, we recommend that AE Industrial PhD students take 3 courses (12 SH) in Independent Study (BIOE 7978) with non-dissertation advisor faculty in different areas of research in our department. These can be literature reviews that can be done off site on the students’ own time and will allow breadth and depth for the course requirements. Please note that the Independent Study course may be taken at most 3 times. It is recommended that AE students take Principles of Bioengineering (BIOE 7000) as the remaining 4 SH. There are also a small number of online courses that can be taken.

**Regular-Entry Students:** Industrial PhD students entering with BS only (non-AE) are required to take a 32 Semester Hour course-load as specified in the Graduate Student Handbook. To meet this, students typically must be on campus about 20 hours per week for at least the first two years of their PhD.

PhD students are also required to take the Advanced Seminar Course (BIOE 7390) four semesters. We intend to record and stream department seminars through the Blackboard/Tegrity system beginning Fall 2019. Offsite students may choose to register for the course and view the seminars online.

Research Requirements
The core of the PhD program is research and scholarship. Qualifying exams, committee meetings, annual reviews and defenses must be performed “as normal” as described Graduate Handbook Section 3.2.

Research performed by PhDs who are employed at an outside company may present a number of unique challenges with respect to publication, conference presentations, and intellectual property. It is critical that students and potential PhD advisors discuss these issues at the beginning of the PhD. As a general rule, the PhD research should be research performed beyond the student’s job-related research so that it may be freely publicly discussed.

This discussion should be documented in a letter, which will be signed by the student and PI, and reviewed by the Bioengineering Graduate Study Committee. Some considerations include:

- *Where will the research be performed?*
- *What are the expectations for journal and conference publications?*
- *Will the student be able to present the research at internal seminars and meetings, as well as at academic conferences?*

Northeastern University has an Industrial PhD Agreement template which can be obtained from the department of Bioengineering office or the Graduate Director. This should be completed and
signed before beginning the PhD. Northeastern University has existing policies on IP and licensing with which both the student and advisor should be aware.

Further questions should be addressed to the Department of Bioengineering Graduate Director: Mark Niedre, Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, m.niedre@neu.edu