GDBBS POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY THE GDBBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

2018-2019

Revised 12/05/2018
# GDBBS Policy Manual

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I. THE GRADUATE DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (GDBBS)

A. GDBBS MISSION STATEMENT

The major responsibility of the Division is the oversight of graduate education in the biological and biomedical sciences, including the recruitment, admission, support, and academic counseling of graduate students. The Division advises the academic Deans of the University on policies regarding graduate education in biological/biomedical science, and on measures for further development of life sciences at Emory. The Division also assists the faculty in obtaining outside sources of support for graduate education. In these capacities it functions as a special arm of the Laney Graduate School. With respect to other organizational units within the University, it is important to note that the Division is synergistic, not competitive, with its constituent Departments, which retain their traditional prerogatives in all areas except graduate education, where their collective interests are represented by the Division. (Source: Blue Book; Proposal for Establishment of the GDBBS, January, 1988)

B. GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF THE GDBBS

Unless otherwise specified, the rules and guidelines governing the GDBBS are the same as those of the Laney Graduate School (LGS) and are outlined in the current LGS Handbook available on the Web at (http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs). GDBBS-specific guidelines, rules and regulations are promulgated in consultation with three oversight committees, the Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee, and the LGS Executive Council. Matters of particular import or broad impact may be submitted to the full GDBBS faculty for a vote. The Director of the Division reports to the Dean of the Laney Graduate School and consults with the Dean of the School of Medicine (SOM), the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the School of Public Health, and the Director of the Yerkes National Primate Center.

1. The GDBBS Advisory Committee

The GDBBS Advisory Committee is appointed by the Dean of the Laney Graduate School and usually consists of the Chairpersons of the Departments where a significant number of GDBBS faculty members hold their primary appointments. Current members include the Chairs of the SOM Basic Science Departments (except Biomedical Engineering), the Departments of Biology, Neurology, Medicine, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Dermatology, and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, as well as the Director of the Yerkes National Primate Center. This committee is advisory, but is consulted on major policy issues and changes to the composition or administrative structure of the Division.

2. The GDBBS Executive Committee

The major policy making body governing the GDBBS is the Executive Committee. It consists of the elected Directors of each GDBBS Program and the Director of the M.D./Ph.D. program. The committee meets regularly to discuss issues that arise and to set policy and procedures for the Division.
C. GDBBS OFFICE STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Brandon Barnes – Business Analyst II
Phone: 404-727-3215; email: Brandon.Scott.Barnes@emory.edu

- Manages FileMaker Pro databases, Web Interface, and websites
- Works with database developers to design, test, and deploy system modifications
- Curates database profiles for GDBBS faculty, students, and alumni
- Synthesizes data from PeopleSoft, NIH, PubMed, etc. for faculty and student training records
- Prepares data reports, analysis, and audits
- Oversees Training Grant application process and produces Data Tables

Kathy Smith - Director of Recruitment and Admissions; Assistant Director of Operations
Phone: 404-727-2547; email: Kathy.Smith@emory.edu

- Manages recruitment and admissions for the GDBBS and its eight PhD programs
- Advises and corresponds with prospective students and applicants
- Represents the GDBBS at recruitment fairs, hosts campus visits and participates in panel discussions
- Coordinates the Emory presence at large recruitment conferences and school visits involving multiple science programs
- Manages marketing by working with various vendors to develop and maintain online listings, and works with a marketing company to develop Search Engine Optimization and Pay-Per-Click marketing strategies
- Develops promotional materials, including writing content, collaborating with the designer and proofreading for a wide variety of publications
- Assists with the GDBBS websites
- Works with the Business Analyst to manage the administration of the GDBBS FileMaker Pro databases; manages the FileMaker Pro development budget
- Manages and organizes the annual Emory University-Laney Graduate School STEM Research and Career Symposium
- Performs data analysis for various reports and to determine the effectiveness of recruitment strategies
- Supervises the Program Administrators

TBA - Director of Student Development
Phone: 404-727-2678; email:

- Identifies and acts as confidential advisor to students, faculty, staff, and GDBBS Director on issues of academic progress, mental health, and career development
- Designs and conducts orientation sessions with new students and underrepresented groups to ease apprehensions from being in a demanding graduate training program
- Keeps GDBBS Director and Programs abreast of current policy and changes that occur with GDBBS and the Laney Graduate School in relation to the impact on students
- Maintains GDBBS Course Database. Helps programs prepare course submissions to Laney Graduate School. Lists courses with the Office of the Registrar each semester
- Organizes and advises the Division Student Advisory Council and the GDBBS Career Committee
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- Coordinates the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program and monitors the Program in Scholarly Training requirement for GDBBS students
- Registers transient, special standing, undergraduate, and BS/MS students for graduate courses
- Monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of internal processes and procedures designed to improve student life and/or reduce attrition rates for the Laney Graduate School
- Maintains student records and facilitates and tracks the flow of Laney Graduate School student forms through the programs through GDBBS to Laney Graduate School
- Facilitates the Exit Interview process with graduating students and the GDBBS Director

**Maureen Thomas - Secretary**
Phone: 404-727-2752; email: Maureen.Thomas@emory.edu

- Assistant to the Division Director
- Maintains listservs, online event calendar, and basic website updates
- Coordinates Faculty Appointment applications
- Assists with database entries and updates
- Arranges meetings and prepares minutes
- Responds to general phone and email inquiries
- Monitors office supply levels and places orders
- Handles mail delivery, pickup and distribution

**Margie Varnado - Business Manager**
Phone: 404-727-2803; email: Margie.Varnado@emory.edu

- Projects budgets and administers all GDBBS accounts
- Handles all accounts payable/receivable
- Process financial aid for students
- Coordinates health insurance payment and compliance with LGS policies
- Processes payroll changes, updates, etc.
- Processes student and staff hires
- Oversees office day-to-day operations, i.e. copier maintenance, building maintenance, etc.
- Processes PDS forms
- Oversees G.I.V.E. Program

**Program Administrators – Susan Hoffstadter (BCDB, MSP); Gary Longstreet (CB, NS); Roberta Lynn (GMB, PBEE); Emily Morran (IMP, MMG)**

- Coordinates recruitment for their Program, including organizing interviewee travel, accommodations and visitation schedule; managing program and faculty communication with applicants; assuring that all application materials are complete; supporting the Program’s admissions committee, and forwarding appropriate paperwork to the GDBBS for processing
- Assists in management of the Program web site and GDBBS calendar
• Manages Program budget, prepares reimbursement requests, reviews monthly account balances, and forward all appropriate paperwork to the GDBBS for processing
• Serves as the first point of contact for Program students, keeps the Program and GDBBS informed of any student issues that could impact student performance, or when their status changes
• Keeps students informed of deadlines and makes sure appropriate forms are completed
• Organize Program meetings and events for faculty and students as required
• Distributes class and grade rosters and registration information, informs the GDBBS of any grade changes and defense announcements, and registers incoming students for the fall semester
• Keeps the GDBBS informed of any student or faculty changes in status

D. COURSE BUDGETS

The GDBBS supports academic courses that are broadly attended by students from more than one Program. The current policy is:

• Funds will only be awarded to courses with a history of registration by students from at least four GDBBS Programs and where no single program accounts for more than 50% of the students.

• Outside speakers will generally not be supported. Exceptions may be made if there is extensive student contact (outside of the lecture period) between the speaker and students from several Programs.

• Funding is renewable by annual application at least six weeks prior to start of the class. Send a memo to the Director of the GDBBS and include: the course number and name of the course director, a course syllabus, number of students registered (or projected) and their Programs, and a description of how the money will be used.
II. GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAMS

A. INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

The Division is currently composed of eight interdisciplinary Programs, each leading to the Ph.D. degree. Each Program concentrates on a major research area in contemporary biology or medicine. Training foci are based upon the realization that an interdisciplinary approach is essential not only for the solution of research problems, but also for successful competition in modern biological and medical research. Students may select a dissertation mentor from among any of the GDBBS faculty members.

As of September 2015 there are eight GDBBS Interdisciplinary Programs:

- Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology (BCDB)
- Cancer Biology (CB)
- Genetics and Molecular Biology (GMB)
- Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis (IMP)
- Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG)
- Molecular and Systems Pharmacology (MSP)
- Neuroscience (NS)
- Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution (PBEE)

B. M.D./PH.D. PROGRAM (MSTP)

Medical students pursuing the combined M.D./Ph.D. degree may affiliate with any Ph.D. program in the Emory University Laney Graduate School, the Emory/Georgia Institute of Technology Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. program or the Georgia Institute of Technology Bioengineering Ph.D. Program. Following the second year of medical school and after passing Step 1 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, M.D./Ph.D. students are admitted into a graduate training program where they begin working on the Ph.D. under the direction of a dissertation mentor. Students in the graduate years present cases and journal articles at the clinical research conference as well as satisfy all the academic requirements of their chosen program of graduate study.

The names of those students training in the GDBBS should be forwarded to the GDBBS by the MSTP program administration as soon as possible, but no later than January 15th. MD/PhD students receive 9 months of stipend support from the GDBBS. Beginning in their second year of graduate studies (G2) the stipend will be derived from the mentor or other non-GDBBS sources.

C. NEW PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Application can be made at any time to form a new graduate training program. New program applications should provide information sufficient to judge how well such a Program can fulfill the requirements described below. Each of the following sections MUST be included. After approval by the Division a formal New Program Proposal must be submitted to the Dean of the Laney Graduate School following their guidelines.
1. Participating Faculty

List all faculty who have agreed in writing to become part of the proposed training Program.

For each Faculty member:

- Indicate which existing Program that faculty would resign from (if necessary) in order to comply with the requirement that faculty be members of only two Programs.

- Indicate whether each faculty member currently holds, or is eligible for, a Laney Graduate School appointment through the GDBBS or another academic unit of the University.

- Indicate the history of external, peer-reviewed research support for the past 5 years. Include dates and number of student slots that grant has supported. Include predoctoral training grants with which the faculty member is associated, and any individual fellowships supervised.

- Include the written guidelines that will be used for evaluating faculty participation, and a clear statement of how non-participating faculty will be removed from the Program. Each prospective faculty member should be furnished with a copy of this statement and agree to fulfill these minimum expectations.

2. Student Pool

The expected applicant pool should be described. If the proposed Program will compete with existing Emory Programs for the same applicant pool, this should be discussed. If the area of training is targeted at a new applicant pool, the numbers and qualifications of the applicant pools of comparable institutions should be described.

3. National Need for Training in the Program Area

Describe the need for training in this area.

- Are there training grants available?

- Is there industrial sponsorship of such training?

- What other comparable institutions have training Programs in this area and how many students do they train in this area?

- Is there a national need for more Ph.D.s in this area?

- Is Emory uniquely equipped or able to train such students?

4. Course Curriculum

Define the required course curriculum, including a sufficient number of advanced courses to meet the training needs of students in the Program. For existing courses, give the IBS numbers. For any new courses, complete the forms for new course proposals.

Discuss any overlap of curriculum with existing graduate Programs.
Describe the required examinations and their format (i.e., Masters equivalency, qualifying, candidacy, etc.). When will they be taken and how are they evaluated?

Describe the expected performance of students on these examinations and the procedures governing retakes, appeals or dismissal if students fail to meet these expectations.

5. Administration

Describe the administrative structure of the Program. For each major administrative position, include the names of individuals who have agreed to serve the first term if the Program is approved.

Describe the procedures to be used to evaluate and interview applicants.

Describe the procedures for advising first-year students, for assigning laboratory rotations, and for selection of Ph.D. mentors.

6. Election of Program Directors and DGS

The Division Director must review and approve the appointment of any Program Director or DGS before the appointment is officially confirmed. Send an email to the GDBBS Director, and copy Maureen Thomas and the Program PA. Nominees for these positions should be concurrent or past members of the Program Executive Committee (EC), or have the strong support of the current Program Director.

The appointment may be handled in one of two ways. The appointment may come from within an existing Program EC, in which case the Program must submit the name and CV of the appointee to the Division Director prior to the appointment being finalized. The Program may also hold an open nomination and open election process with the full faculty. In this case the Program must submit each nominee’s name and CV to the Division Director for review and approval before announcing the nominees to the full faculty for their vote. Final approval comes from the Dean of the Laney Graduate School.

The Division requires that an open election be held for at least one seat on the Program EC at least once each year. This allows for new faculty to join the EC and begin to learn about the Program leadership responsibilities. This also ensures that new voices and new ideas have the opportunity to be heard.

The Director and DGS are elected for 3-year terms, and programs should make every attempt to stagger elections so that both the Director and DGS are not rotating off at the same time. Final approval comes from the Dean of the Laney Graduate School.

D. EVALUATION OF GDBBS PROGRAMS

1. Introduction

Implicit in the Divisional structure is the assumption that from time to time it may be necessary to restructure Graduate Programs in order to accommodate changing local and national needs. Programs that have lost their vigor or competitiveness need to be refocused. Likewise, it may become advantageous to form new graduate Programs or expand existing ones. To respond to such needs and to assure optimal use of training funds and faculty it is necessary to have uniform and realistic expectations for Graduate Programs. The performance of our Graduate Programs should be periodically reviewed for fulfillment of these expectations.
The following guidelines govern the evaluation of the performance of Programs within the GDBBS. Criteria are suggested that can be used to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of existing Programs with regard to Training Faculty, Student Pool, National Need, Course Curriculum, and Administration. It is expected that successful Programs will meet all of these criteria during each review. Generally, an application for a new training area would be expected to document how the proposed Program would meet or exceed the criteria used to evaluate existing Programs.

2. Review Mechanism

The Director of the Division will appoint a three or four member Ad Hoc Review Committee. All Ad Hoc Committees will specifically exclude current Program Directors and Departmental Chairs, although their views may be sought by the committee for evaluation of Programs. At least two individuals from outside the university will be included in the Ad Hoc Review Committees. Each Review Committee will review individual Programs when requested by the GDBBS Director, with the expectation that each Program will be reviewed every five years. In addition, the Director of the Division may request a review of a Program at any time. The reports of each Review Committee will be forwarded to the GDBBS Director and the GDBBS Advisory Committee. After formal acceptance of the report by the Advisory Committee the report will be available for inspection by any interested faculty member.

Programs that fail to meet the minimal criteria will be placed on probation and required to correct any insufficiencies identified by the Review Committee within one year. The Division Director will recommend to the Deans of the Laney Graduate School and School of Medicine that Programs with a history of such problems will be phased out. In this event, the Program will cease to admit new students and will maintain active administrative functions only until all enrolled students finish their degree requirements.

The GDBBS Advisory Council will review new Program proposals and make recommendations to the Director, based on the capability of any proposed new Program to meet the criteria outlined below.

3. Program Review Criteria

a) Programs Should Have an Adequate Number of Participating Faculty

Faculty will be limited to membership in two Programs. Individual faculty can request an exception to this rule by submitting a written request to the Executive Committee of the Division. If approved, application may be made for membership to an additional Program.

Programs should have a minimum of 12 faculty who are eligible to serve as primary dissertation mentors according to Laney Graduate School regulations, and who have had peer-reviewed extramural support for a minimum of 3 of the last 5 years, or are in years 1 or 2 of a three year or longer term grant.

The Program must have written guidelines for evaluating faculty participation, and a clearly documented mechanism for removal of non-participating faculty from the Program.

b) Programs Should be Able to Recruit, Matriculate, and Graduate High Quality Students

Qualified Applicant Pool - For at least 2 of the previous 3 years a Program should have received a minimum of 20 applications from prospective students who meet both GDBBS minimum requirements and NIH requirements for predoctoral fellowship trainees.
Qualified Matriculating Pool – At least 90% of the students admitted to a Program should meet minimal GDBBS requirements.

Student Progress - A minimum of two-thirds of the students admitted should finish the Ph.D. degree. Students should complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an average of 5.5 years.

c) National Need for Training in the Program Area

The following examples are among the ways in which Programs can demonstrate a national need and market for the students they train:

- Training Support - Program faculty should be associated with successful predoctoral training grants, or as sponsors of individual student fellowships. Association with a training grant by a particular faculty member would be counted in each Program with which that faculty person is affiliated.

- Employment Prospects for Graduates - Evidence of employment opportunities for Program graduates should be documented. This might include a summary of job advertisements in international journals, professional society announcements, requests for research proposals in the training area, availability of training grant funds, or industrial support of training in the Program area.

- Employment History for Graduates - A large proportion of Program graduates should be employed in scientific careers. Employment history of graduates should be collected by the Division office biannually and be made available to the Ad Hoc Committee to be included in the review.

d) Curriculum

Core Curriculum - Programs should have a defined core curriculum. Advanced courses in the curriculum should be distinct from those of other Programs. Both core and advanced courses should be offered on a regular basis; preferably every year for core courses and at least every other year for advanced courses.

Advanced Courses - Programs should offer a number of advanced courses sufficient to fulfill the educational needs of its students. These should be specifically listed and may include courses taught by Division faculty from other Programs.

e) Administration

Programs should show continued ability to provide faculty to fill the positions of Program Director, DGS, Recruiters, and Executive Committee members.

E. PROGRAM BUDGETS

1. Program Administrative Budgets

Each Program is allocated an administrative budget. Currently the allocation is $310 per student enrolled in the Program as of September 1st of each academic year. Students in year 7 and beyond do not count toward the per student calculation.
2. Program Recruitment Budgets

In addition to the core administrative budgets each program receives a recruiting budget. Each Program is allocated $1,545 per slot allocated (e.g., 5 slots allocated = $7,725 recruitment budget). Slot allocations are not made until the official university budget is released each year, usually in mid-February.

3. Program Expenditures (Signature and Approval Process)

Program funds should only be expended for activities that directly benefit and involve students. When meals are to be charged to program funds there must be participation by at least a subset of the program students. If it is important that only faculty be in attendance then other sources of funding must be used.

Allowable expenditures for meals charged to GDBBS speedtypes are limited to $60 per person attending the meal. University policy must also be followed.

Payment Services requires that all payment requests be routed through the Division office for signature.

4. Deficits in the Program Budget

When a Program budget is overdrawn at the end of any academic year, the following year's budget is reduced by the amount of the overage.

5. Surpluses in the Program Budget

When a Program Budget has a balance greater than $3,000 at the end of any academic year, the program may request that the surplus be carried over. A written request with a justification of how surplus funds will be expended must be submitted to the Director of the GDBBS for consideration. Any balance of $3,000 or less will automatically be carried over to the next academic year.

F. GDBBS TRAINING GRANTS

Successful competition for training grants on the part of any Program is an integral component that contributes to the success of the Program. When a training grant pays the stipend of a student who would otherwise be the responsibility of the GDBBS in the first 21 months, our philosophy is that it is only fair to repay the program where that student resides with additional funding for slot(s) in the following year(s). Training grants also provide funding for tuition and health insurance, etc. and students who are supported on training grants at any point in their training also result in partial funding toward additional slots because portions of the training grant funds paid to the LGS are returned to the Division. These points are taken into consideration during the slot allocation process.

To assist Programs in preparing training grant applications, the GDBBS office staff maintains comprehensive databases on GDBBS applicants, matriculated students, GDBBS graduates, and GDBBS faculty along with information about their research interests and experience in educating both predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees. These databases are updated regularly and contain output layouts formatted to comply with the tabular formats that are required for NIH training grant applications. In consultation with training grant P.I.s, the GDBBS office staff prepares all of the tabular components of these applications and some of the text for the narrative sections, thereby saving the faculty members involved a significant amount of time and effort in the preparation of the application.
Because preparation of a training grant application is exceedingly time consuming, the GDBBS office requires a six month lead time prior to the submission deadline to be able to adequately meet all of the requirements necessary to prepare a competitive application. Accordingly, a log of renewal schedules for each training grant held by GDBBS Programs is maintained in the GDBBS office. The Program Administrator and the training grant P.I. are contacted six months prior to submission deadline for their respective grant application renewals to alert them to the pending deadline and begin the communication process between the GDBBS office staff and the Program faculty. This lead time is necessary to obtain updated information with which to populate the appropriate databases and to allow accurate completion of the required training tables.

**G. STUDENT ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES**

1. **GDBBS Slot Allocation Procedure**

   The GDBBS slot allocation procedure takes into account the training grants and individual student fellowships that support students and help defray costs. We recognize the amount of time and effort that the training grant PI puts into writing the grant, and the work that goes into an individual student fellowship. When a training grant or student fellowship pays the stipend of a student who would otherwise be the responsibility of the GDBBS in the first 21 months, our philosophy is that it is only fair to repay the program where that student resides in the following year(s). This amount is calculated in phase I, and the stipend paid by the grant or fellowship is capped at the standard GDBBS stipend level for calculation purposes since this is the amount that relieved the GDBBS budget. The remaining slots are distributed in phase II based on the non-stipend training grant and fellowship money that supported students, the training grant eligible applications and the capacity of the faculty to train, all of which are equally weighted. All students are admitted as full-time students and occupy a slot.

   a) **Phase I: Determining the Distribution of Slots for the GDBBS**

   The final number of GDBBS student slots available (T) for the upcoming year is set in February after that year’s budget is set. To calculate the total slots available for general distribution (A):

   - T is reduced by Director's discretionary allocations. The criteria for allocation of Director's discretionary slots may vary from year to year. These positions are usually reserved for truly exceptional applicants or to accomplish specific goals outside the allocation procedure.
   - M.D./Ph.D. trainees who are in their M2 year and will become G1 students in the upcoming fall semester are handled separately from the slot allocation procedure.
   - The total slots available for general distribution (A) is further reduced by the number of training grant and fellowships that supported student stipends in the first 21 months that would otherwise be the responsibility of the GDBBS. The dollar amount for each program is totaled and the equivalent value of a slot is determined. Each program can redeem full slots, with any remainder carrying forward to the next year (e.g., 1.80 slots provides 1 slot for the current year calculation, with .80 carryover to the following year). These slots are removed from the total available slots up front in recognition that these sources relieved the GDBBS from paying the stipends in the first 21 months that otherwise would have been the responsibility of the GDBBS, and is listed as “grant repayment” on the spreadsheet.
   - If a Program over-subscribes its slot allocation in any one year, it loses an equivalent number of slots from future slot allocations. If a Program under-subscribes its slot allocation it can carry the under-subscribed slots over to future years. The number of under-subscriptions must be added, or oversubscriptions subtracted, in calculating the number of allocable slots (A).
In summary, the total slots available for general distribution (A) is given by:

\[ A = T - \text{Directors discretionary} - \text{training grant/fellowship repayments in the first 21 months} \pm \text{under/oversubscriptions} \]

b) Phase II: Distribution of Slots to the Programs

The remaining slots (A) are then distributed based on three criteria:

- Fellowship and Training Grant Slots: all financial support provided by training grants and individual fellowships, outside of stipend support in the first 21 months, is totaled for each program. This includes tuition, fees, and health insurance.
- Training Grant Eligible Applications. To assure that Programs emphasize recruitment of training grant eligible students, and because only an extremely small proportion of international students are interviewed, only training grant eligible applicants are counted.
- Stipend Support Available: This number represents the ability of the faculty to support the stipends of new students, and could be determined by a direct survey of the faculty or from a survey conducted by each program Director.

These three criteria are weighted equally and are scaled to the number of slots remaining to be distributed (A). The total of these three categories are then added to give a total allocation for each program. The number of Director’s slots, non-GDBBS funded slots, grant repayment slots and time to degree adjustment (and possibly IMSD slots) are then added back in to give the total slot allocation per program. MD/PhD students are added in to give the target enrollment for the year.

In some situations funding is provided on a yearly basis (e.g., Winship Cancer Institute), with stipends provided for students who are currently in year one or two. In these situations slots are awarded up front as a full slot based on the commitment from the funding source. In situations where year 2 funding is not provided, it is the responsibility of the program to provide a half slot to cover year 2 funding.

2. Slot Recovery

a) A Student Leaving in the First Year

If a student withdraws or is dismissed before the beginning of the second year the Program receives a half slot rebate. It is the responsibility of the Program Director to request the half slot rebate and provide the name of the student who left. In the case where a student goes on medical leave during their first year the slot must be held until the student officially withdraws, after which the Program Director can then request a half slot rebate. No rebate will be given once a student has started their second year.

b) A Student Switching Programs in the First Year

If a student changes Programs in the first year then the new Program will assume the cost of the slot.

3. Admission of Students Not Receiving a GDBBS Stipend

If a matriculating student is fully supported by the PI, then the student does not count against the program’s slots (the typical case is when a faculty member moves to Emory). If the faculty member does not fulfill his/her financial obligation such that the GDBBS has to support the student, then the program bears that cost in the slot allocation process.
• If these funds come from faculty member’s funds, he/she can choose to credit this support to the Program or to receive credit in their individual Stipend Reserve Fund account (see below). If the investigator elects to receive a credit in their individual Stipend Reserve Fund, then no slot credit is given to the program.

• Once these students arrive they become part of the GDBBS and deserve the same financial and intellectual commitment as students admitted under the normal mechanism. If the source of a non-GDBBS stipend is a faculty member’s funds, special precautions need to be enacted that assure the student is not pressured or coerced to choose that faculty member as a mentor. Of course such an arrangement would only be entered into if there were a strong likelihood that the student will affiliate with the funding faculty member, but the faculty member must realize that there is a finite chance that the student will change their mind. Prior to admission under such an arrangement the faculty member must submit a letter to the Director of the GDBBS (with copies to the student and the Program) stating that the student is free to choose rotations and a mentor in the same way as all other students.

4. Offers of Admission after April 15

The Dean of the Laney Graduate School must approve any offers of admission that a Program wishes to make after April 15. The Program must submit a letter requesting late admission before an offer of admission can be made. This letter should outline the reasons the Program believes the applicant will succeed in graduate work and explain why the offer of admission is being made so late.

Letters requesting admissions after April 15 must be sent to the Director of the Division for prior review. If the Director approves the decision of the Program, he/she will forward the recommendation to the Dean of the Laney Graduate School.

5. Fellowships

a) George W. Woodruff Fellowship

The George W. Woodruff Fellowship is open to degree applicants to the Laney Graduate School who plan to pursue programs of doctoral study and who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. Fellowships are awarded solely on the basis of merit. To be considered for a Woodruff Fellowship, complete applications for admission to the Laney Graduate School, including all transcripts, recommendations, required test scores, and the statement of purpose, must be received by the GDBBS by the published deadline.

The George W. Woodruff Fellowship covers tuition and fees and will provide a $5,000 stipend supplement for five years.

b) Centennial Scholars Fellowship (CS)

The Centennial Scholars Fellowship is given to applicants who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and who will contribute to the development of a richly diverse student body. To be considered for the Centennial Scholars Fellowship, applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who plan to pursue a program of doctoral study.

c) The Laney Graduate School Fellowship (LGSF)

The Laney Graduate School Fellowship is offered by the Laney Graduate School in conjunction with the GDBBS Programs. All interviewed applicants are eligible for the award.
6. Summer Admission of Incoming Students

All students will begin in the Fall semester.

7. Registration of Continuing Students

Continuing students should consult with their DGS, their faculty mentor, and/or dissertation committee, as appropriate depending on their stage in training, and register online prior to the pre-registration deadline every semester including summer semester. The GDBBS office sends out reminders to all students well in advance of each pre-registration deadline. It is extremely important for all students to maintain continuous registration throughout their training programs. **Students who are not registered are not eligible to receive stipend support.**

8. English as a Second Language (ESL) Testing and Courses

All new students whose first language is not English must participate in English language assessments prior to registration. If results on the speaking and writing assessments indicate the need for English instruction, enrollment in one or more ESL classes will be required during the first academic year.

The ESL curriculum consists of three speaking classes and two writing classes: Intermediate Pronunciation & Communications, Advanced Pronunciation & Communications, Laboratory in Advanced Speaking, Graduate English Writing, and Laboratory in Graduate English Writing. When indicated by the results of the ESL assessment, these courses are required for continuation in graduate school. They carry 2-4 hours credit and are graded S/U. Completion of these courses will appear on students' official transcripts, indicating improvement in written or spoken English.

Students needing two ESL courses in one term will be expected to reduce their discipline-specific loads to accommodate the academic requirements of English classes. Research indicates that time taken for improvement of English skills early in one's graduate program will be recovered as performance improves. Direct questions to the ESL Director, 404-727-2183.
III. FACULTY GUIDELINES

A. FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Admission to the GDBBS Training Faculty

Training faculty must be full-time, Emory (or Emory-affiliated) faculty, should have demonstrated expertise in the fields of training and must have, or have the prospect of acquiring, sufficient extramural funding to ensure support of the students' research projects. Examples of documented expertise include doctoral and/or postdoctoral training in the field, publications in major peer reviewed journals of the areas represented by the Program, and membership in professional society(s).

Application for membership to the training faculty in a GDBBS Program should be made to the Executive Committee of the Program. After review of the application and an assessment of past or anticipated participation of the candidate in graduate training, the committee will decide to decline or approve admission of the applicant. Often such consideration includes the presentation by the applicant of a publicly advertised research seminar to the Program faculty and students and a vote of the Program faculty by secret ballot. If the application is approved by the Executive Committee, a letter from the Program Director indicating the approval of the candidate by the Program is to be forwarded to the Division Director along with the rest of the application materials. The following items constitute a complete application: a current curriculum vitae, an NIH PHS 398-style four page Biosketch, indication of current, past and pending funding, a letter from the candidate requesting admission and indicating his/her desire to become a training faculty member and willingness to participate in duties thereof, a letter of support from the Departmental Chairperson, information on past experience in training doctoral students or postdoctoral fellows, a list of planned or anticipated collaborative activities with Program faculty, a one page description of the candidate's research and a one sentence summary of his/her major research efforts suitable for use in the recruiting Viewbook, and the candidate’s EMPL ID. The candidate should explicitly indicate in their letter which graduate level courses he/she has taught and/or in which specific courses he/she would volunteer to participate, and provide details on how they plan to contribute to the Program. According to Laney Graduate School guidelines, the application of new members must be forwarded to the Dean of the Laney Graduate School for approval.

2. Program Membership Limit

GDBBS faculty members are limited to membership in two Programs. Application for admission to a second Program requires only a letter from the Program Director on behalf of the Program Executive Committee requesting such an appointment and a letter from the faculty member detailing how they will contribute to the program. In rare circumstances a Faculty Member may request appointment in more than two programs by submitting a written request to the Executive Committee of the Division. Such a request will only be approved if there is persuasive evidence that the Faculty Member will contribute in a significant way to the mission of all programs involved.

3. Level of Faculty Appointments

The three types of GDBBS membership are Full, Associate, and Adjunct Members. The definition of membership rights and responsibilities are as follows:

- Full Member: Full Members have full rights and privileges, including the right to act as Dissertation Advisors, to serve on any GDBBS Committee, or in an administrative position. Full Members must be faculty at Emory in good standing. To assure a stable training environment, faculty must have independent
funding (i.e., as the sole PI or as MPI) and sufficient research space must be assigned solely to the faculty member by their department. These should only include faculty who are already engaged in research, research funding, and scholarship (as first or last author). Exceptions can be made by the GDBBS Director, as appropriate. Programs may have restrictions on who can host a rotation student; please check with your Program DGS.

- Associate Member: Associate Members must be faculty at Emory. Associate Members have the rights and privileges of Full Members, except they may only serve as a Dissertation Co-Advisor, serve on dissertation committees, and may be involved in other aspects of the Graduate Program. Generally, this membership would be for financially dependent Research Track faculty or others who contribute to the mission of the Graduate Program but are not in a position to directly serve as mentor for new students in their research group, or those who have been judged to be non-participatory during the annual Program Review of Participation.

- Adjunct Member: Adjunct Members must be faculty or staff of another research institution and must have credentials similar to those of our Full Members. They will have all the rights and privileges of full members, except they may only serve on University or GDBBS committees in an unofficial capacity and they may only serve as Dissertation Co-Advisors. (For example, for faculty at Georgia Tech and CDC.)

The application for membership will remain the same, except the rank of the proposed appointment must be specified in the letter from the Program Director. All listings of GDBBS faculty MUST contain the rank of appointment and a definition of these ranks. A Full Member must direct all Dissertations, even if the research is being done in the laboratory of an Associate or Adjunct member.

After consideration by the Program Executive Committee, the Program Director should forward the request for appointment (with accompanying documentation) to the Division office with a recommendation for approval. If the request meets Division requirements, the Division Director will ask the Dean of the Laney Graduate School to appoint the candidate as a member of the graduate faculty in the Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, affiliated with the Program that has submitted the request.

4. Dissertation Advisors/Co-Advisor

Every Student must have an Advisor, a Full Member who will chair the Dissertation Committee and may or may not direct the student’s research project. If a student has more than one member directing their research, the one who is furnishing financial support will be designated as the Advisor and the other(s) as Co-Advisor. Students training in the laboratories of Associate or Adjunct Members must designate a Full Member as Advisor and the Associate or Adjunct Member(s) will be designated as Co-Advisor. (Both Advisor and Co-Advisor must sign the GDBBS Advisor Agreement Form).

5. Faculty Responsibilities to the Program

Program members are expected to participate actively in Program functions. This includes the honor and responsibility of serving as dissertation mentors to graduate students in the Program. The dissertation mentor is financially and intellectually responsible for the development of that student and is the major overseer of the student's successful completion of the Ph.D. Program. Such agreements should not be entered into without considerable thought and consideration. Furthermore, the mentor agrees to uphold the guidelines of the student’s Program as well as those of the GDBBS.
GDBBS Policy Manual

Additional contributions should be made in the following areas including, but not limited to, program relevant graduate level teaching, student recruitment, directing laboratory rotations, Program administration, participation in the preparation and grading of qualifying exams, attendance at research seminars given by outside faculty, Program faculty, and Program students, attendance at Program faculty meetings, voting on admissibility of new faculty members, and service on dissertation committees.

Satisfactory participation includes displaying adequacy in at least two of the following categories.

a) Teaching

Directing, co-directing or teaching at least 10 contact hours in course(s) within the last three years in a GDBBS graduate course relevant to the Program and taken by a significant number of program students. Undergraduate, medical, and allied health courses are not considered program-relevant unless they also carry a GDBBS listing and were taken by a significant number of GDBBS students during the three year period in question.

b) Research Training

Active participation in research training involves:

- Membership on dissertation committees of students in the Program.
- Attendance at student seminars and dissertation defenses.
- Attendance at relevant faculty research seminars.
- Writing and grading Part I examination questions.

c) Administrative

Holding any executive office of the Program including Director, Director of Graduate Studies, Executive Committee, Recruiter, active participation in other Program committees, OR

Holding an executive office in the Graduate Division of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, OR Laney Graduate School (but not within the administrative structure of another Program), OR as an administrator elsewhere at Emory University (e.g. Dept. Chair).

Participation is required in recruitment efforts including meals and interviews during the annual recruitment period, or individual field visits to recruit at academic institutions.

d) Recruiting

Each faculty member also bears a responsibility to advertise our Programs and to make contact with potential students whenever possible. The GDBBS encourages all faculty members and students to visit predominantly undergraduate institutions and talk with prospective students. Upon approval from both the GDBBS and the faculty member’s Program, certain types of recruitment travel can be reimbursed. Travel must be preapproved. When a faculty member is giving a seminar at a school they may be able to give a talk to a group of students either at that school or a neighboring school, or they may be able to visit a school near a conference they are attending. In such cases the GDBBS and the program can approve funding to cover the additional costs associated with the school visit. All requests for travel funding must be made at least one month prior to travel and the program Director must approve the expense. Requests are submitted to the Director of Recruitment and
Admissions; travel costs are shared 50/50 between the GDBBS and the Program and amounts up to $200 are eligible for reimbursement. The faculty member must take GDBBS brochures to distribute and should discuss the GDBBS as well as their program.

6. Faculty Review Process

Each Program must regularly review the participation of their faculty. Faculty participation should be reviewed every three years by the Program Executive Committee. If it is determined at any point that a training member has become inactive in the Program, the Program Executive Committee will notify the member and suggest steps that would help him/her regain a full level of participation. The member has one year to demonstrate renewed commitment to the Program, and in the absence of increased participation the member may be removed from the Program roster. The applicant can prepare a rebuttal statement and request reconsideration through an appeal to the ad hoc Review Committee. The ad hoc Review Committee will be chosen by the GDBBS Director from the tenured, Program faculty who have been in the Program for over 3 years. Re-appointment to training faculty status will be considered by the same mechanisms described above for de novo admission.

7. Faculty Responsibilities to Students

No faculty member who is known to be under an official investigation for alleged wrongdoing in his/her role as faculty at Emory, or who is known to be the subject of a formal complaint alleging such wrongdoing, will be assigned a student for mentorship or for a rotation experience if that complaint or investigation is directly related to his/her interaction with a GDBBS student or students. This restriction will go into effect as soon as the GDBBS is made aware that an official complaint has been submitted (e.g., to the Office of Equity and Inclusion), whether or not an official investigation has been launched by that office, and will remain in effect until the GDBBS is informed either of the results of that investigation or that the office in question has chosen to not initiate an investigation. This rule is intended to help ensure that our students are placed in a safe training environment.

8. GDBBS Mentorship Award

The GDBBS has established an Excellence in Mentoring Award that is presented annually. Faculty members who receive this award are chosen based on review of nomination letters submitted by present and former students, as well as present and former postdoctoral trainees.

B. FACULTY STIPEND RESERVE FUND

The GDBBS operates a Stipend Reserve Fund that provides flexibility in funding of graduate students. There are two types of accounts: credit and debit.

1. Credit

A faculty member may want to build a credit in the fund now to pay for a student in later years.

A faculty member may support a student who would otherwise be the responsibility of the Division or by transferring unrestricted funds to the Fund.

A faculty member may utilize their credit for the support of a graduate student who would otherwise be the responsibility of the faculty member (including travel to scientific meetings) or to pay the approved sponsor tuition for a graduate student.
2. Debit

To be eligible to accrue a debt to the Fund to pay a student stipend and/or sponsor tuition, the faculty must be a member of a Program that makes mentor selection before the beginning of the second year. Those that do not select mentors before the beginning of the second year have fewer ways to retire the debt.

A faculty member may accrue a debt to the Fund to pay the stipend and/or sponsor tuition of a student that would otherwise be the faculty member’s responsibility. This should be considered a last resort and only requested when all other alternatives have been exhausted (see Procedures below). Debts to the Fund are limited to a total dollar amount equivalent to 15 months of student stipend.

Once a faculty member accrues a debt up to 9 months of stipend equivalent the faculty member will be required to meet with GDBBS leadership to discuss a plan for support of current students to avoid exceeding the 15-month cap. Following that meeting a summary of the discussion and projection for future debt will be forwarded to the Program Director and Chair of the department where the faculty member derives his/her primary appointment.

A faculty member can pay back a debt by supporting a student who would otherwise be the responsibility of GDBBS or by transferring unrestricted money to the Fund.

A Program can pay the faculty member’s debt by forfeiting an allocated half or full slot for a new student.

A Department can pay the individual’s debt by transferring unrestricted money to the Fund.

3. Procedures

All credit transactions can be accomplished by emailing Margie Varnado with the student’s name, dates of support, and speedtype.

All debit requests (which must contain the student’s name and dates of support) should be emailed to Margie Varnado, who will then send a form by email for the faculty member to obtain approval by the Program Director and the Chair of the Department where the faculty member derives his/her primary appointment. Upon recommendation of the Program Director and the Chair the request will be approved and funds disbursed by GDBBS. If a faculty member needs additional support, a new request must be filed.

Any faculty with a debt to the Fund will be required to pay the stipend of any student(s) rotating in their laboratory. If the program involved fails to notify the GDBBS of such a rotation assignment the program will be responsible for any new debt incurred.

No faculty member with a debt to the Fund will be allowed to take a new student unless the debt is retired by transferring unrestricted funds or faculty member assumes the burden of the student’s support early enough that the debt is retired prior to the student’s 22nd month, when the student’s support would otherwise become the responsibility of the faculty member. If the program approves such a mentor assignment the program will be responsible to retire the debt.

If the Program feels it is important for an assignment to be made to a faculty member in debt, they must pay the debt by giving up a half or full slot for the next recruiting season. The amount of stipend for this lost slot will be assigned to retire the debt so that this assignment can be made.

Subsequently, if the faculty member needs additional funds, specifically to support a current student, the Chair will be responsible for debt in excess of 18 months of stipend. Because the Chair may have to assume
responsibility if reduced funding prevents the faculty member from paying their students, all mentor assignments must be approved by the Program Director and by the Chair of the Department where that faculty member derives their primary appointment.

4. Reporting

All rotation and mentor assignments will be reported in a timely manner to the GDBBS to allow the updating of the GDBBS database and student files. The Program Director or DGS and the Chair of the Department where the prospective faculty member derives their primary appointment will be required to approve the assignment. The GDBBS Mentor Assignment Agreement form should be completed and forwarded to the GDBBS as soon as it is completed, but in no case later than September 1st of the student’s second year.

5. Appeals

Any appeals for exceptions to this policy must be submitted in writing to the Director of GDBBS and should be accompanied by a statement from the Chairman and Program involved. Appeals will be heard by the Executive Committee within 30 days of receipt in the GDBBS office.

C. GDBBS STUDENT STIPEND SUPPORT

1. Stipend Support for Students

Stipend levels are determined annually in February by the GDBBS Director in consultation with the Deans of the Laney Graduate School and Medical School. Only students in good academic standing will be eligible to receive a stipend. The GDBBS provides the first 21 months of support to PhD students, and 9 months of support to MD/PhD students; students are funded by their advisor’s grant (or their own) after the GDBBS period of support. Students who continue in training beyond their fifth year will not receive a stipend increase unless they have a current satisfactory committee report. Seventh year students will receive no stipend support unless approved by special request. Student stipends are paid at the end of each month. If students experience financial difficulty, short-term loans are available from the Laney Graduate School.

2. Outside Employment

Doctoral education demands full-time effort. Students receive stipends and tuition fellowships in order to allow them to commit the necessary time to their studies and research. Unrelated employment serves as a distraction and interferes with the ability of students to meet degree requirements in a timely manner. For these reasons, employment not directly related to students’ degree requirements and professional development goals is strongly discouraged.

If additional income is absolutely necessary while a student is enrolled in the degree program, s/he must receive prior approval from her or his advisor and the Program Director/Director of Graduate Studies. The Program Director/Director of Graduate Studies has the prerogative to bring the request to the program’s Executive Committee for discussion. Requests to work more than 10 hours a week require written approval from the GDBBS Director and then the Dean of the Laney Graduate School. Students who wish to request permission to seek employment should allow 30 days for review. In the rare cases in which approval is granted, students must ensure that employment does not interfere with research performance, progress toward degree, or any program requirements, including seminar attendance.
3. Stipend Supplements

Any fellowship awarded as part of the offer of admission will continue to be paid as a supplement to the student’s regular stipend (independent of the source of the stipend).

a) Supplements for External Fellowships

The stipend of any student who obtains a competitive individual fellowship from an external source (e.g. NIH NRSA, Hughes, NSF, etc.) will be supplemented by $2,000 for the duration of the award if the award provides more than 75% of the current GDBBS stipend level (or $1,000 if the award provides less than 75% and a minimum of 50%). Appointment to Institutional Training Grants or Diversity Grants do not qualify a student for this supplement. The GDBBS is responsible for the supplements during the first 21 months. The mentor is responsible for the supplement beginning with the 22nd month.

b) Supplements for Fellowships Awarded at Matriculation

- George W. Woodruff Fellowship - $5,000 stipend supplement from the Laney Graduate School for five years.

- Emory Centennial Scholars Fellowship (CS) - variable stipend supplement from the Laney Graduate School for five years.

- Laney Graduate School Fellowship (LGSF) - $2,500 stipend supplement from the Laney Graduate School for five years.
IV. GDBBS STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. TEACHING ASSISTANT TRAINING AND TEACHING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (TATTO)

The Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO) is administered by the Emory University Laney Graduate School to provide teacher training and experience for doctoral students in the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS). All Emory graduate students must complete the TATTO program since participating in the TATTO program is a degree requirement.

1. Participation

Successful completion of the TATTO Program is a requirement for the doctoral degree. There are four stages of participation: 1) attending the summer teacher training workshop sponsored by the Laney Graduate School; 2) completing the Division Program requirements for training in bioscience teaching; 3) working as a Teaching Assistant for at least one semester; and 4) serving as a Teaching Associate for one semester, a requirement that can be met in a variety of ways.

2. Summer Teaching Workshop

The summer teaching workshop sponsored by the Laney Graduate School (usually scheduled one week immediately prior to the beginning of the fall semester) is the first stage of teacher training (TAT600). No student may engage in any classroom related teaching activities in his/her training Program until completion of the summer workshop. Normally Ph.D. students will begin their TATTO participation in the summer following their first year of graduate study at Emory. However, this may be adjusted depending upon an individual student's previous training and academic Program. For international students the recommendations of the ESL instructors will be solicited and in some cases the teaching assistantship (see below) will be deferred to the third year.

3. Division Program Experience in "Teaching in the Biosciences"

Discipline-specific experience and training in teaching is being accomplished effectively by requiring all students to enroll and participate in the graduate seminar courses offered by each Program (PGM570r and 790r). Student participation in these seminars teaches them to: a) lecture, b) manage class discussion, c) evaluate student (peer) writing, d) use audio-visual equipment, e) communicate to undergraduate and graduate (including medical) students, f) prepare research seminars, g) communicate research data to peers, etc. Students in all Programs are required to enroll in the graduate seminar each semester during their first three years in training. Participation in these seminars reinforces material covered in the graduate school summer workshop and addresses subjects and problems particularly related to each specific Program discipline. The Division faculty is firmly committed to assuring that the graduate seminar courses provide each student with ample exposure to, and experience with discipline-specific teaching methods. Students will be evaluated on their classroom participation and by a variety of criteria that are based on specific activities expected of all students. In most Programs the graduate seminar is graded.

4. Teaching Assistantship

All students in the Division of Biological Sciences are currently required to serve as a Teaching Assistant for one semester (TAT605) during the academic year immediately following participation in the TATTO summer workshop. Teaching Assistant duties will usually consist of serving as a lecturer, laboratory instructor/assistant, and/or a discussion section leader under the supervision of a faculty member. Teaching Assistants will also assist
students with problems during scheduled office hours, help with the preparation of handout and/or laboratory materials, help administer and grade exams, etc. Students assigned to laboratory courses assist in setting up the laboratory exercises and help students with the theoretical and practical aspects of the exercise as it progresses.

The supervising faculty member will submit to the Director of Graduate Studies an evaluation of the performance of each Teaching Assistant at the end of the semester of service. Failure to do so will prevent the course director from receiving any more TA assignments. The GDBBS Director of Student Development uses a matching process to assign Teaching Assistants.

5. Teaching Associateship

The fourth stage of TATTO, the Teaching Associateship (TAT610), requires more substantial involvement in co-teaching a course. Because there are limited opportunities for co-teaching in medical school courses and Division Program graduate courses, it will be logistically impossible for most Division students to fulfill the Teaching Associate requirement by co-teaching. Accordingly, this phase of a Division student's teacher training will most often be accomplished through a number of alternative teaching opportunities within their respective curricula. The Teaching Associateship was established to provide these expanded opportunities. The Teaching Associateship must be completed before the semester in which the candidate applies for a degree. The GDBBS Director of Student Development coordinates the process.

6. Additional Teaching Opportunities

For students wishing to gain more pedagogical experience, additional teaching opportunities are available beyond the one-semester requirement, some of which may provide additional academic credit or a small additional stipend. Contact the GDBBS Director of Student Development for more information about these opportunities.

Students who demonstrate exceptional teaching ability may be eligible to apply for the Dean’s Teaching Fellowship. To be eligible for consideration, a student must have completed all Laney Graduate School and program requirements (except the dissertation) and must have been admitted to PhD candidacy. Dean’s Teaching Fellows have complete responsibility for the course they teach. The Laney Graduate School offers a number of these merit-based fellowships to students, usually in their fifth or sixth year, on a competitive basis. Notice of these opportunities are advertised by the Laney Graduate School as they become available.

7. Administration and Evaluation

Each of the Programmatic components of the Division TATTO plan falls under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee within each Program, with the Director of Graduate Studies from that Program being the primary administrator of each Program's plan. Additional faculty members will participate in the various aspects of the Program as requested by the Director of Graduate Studies. Evaluation will take the form of course grades, as in the case of graduate seminars, and/or written evaluations by the faculty member primarily responsible for direct supervision of the activity being monitored. Records of completion of TATTO requirements will be entered on the appropriate forms and these will be retained in each student's file at the Program level. Copies will also be forwarded to the Division office, which will be responsible for verifying to the Laney Graduate School that each student has met all TATTO requirements prior to graduation.

8. TATTO Monitoring

The Division office will monitor students' completion of requirements 2 and 4 above; the Programs will monitor students' completion of requirements 3 and 5 above.
9. GDBBS TATTO Teaching Award

The GDBBS supports an annual Teaching Award for the student(s) who have displayed exemplary teaching skills in the performance of their TA responsibilities. The Award consists of a certificate and monetary award that are presented during the annual GDBBS Awards Banquet. Ph.D. trainees in the GDBBS who have completed 2 years of graduate training at Emory are eligible for nomination. M.D./Ph.D. candidates should have completed their G1 year. Nominations will be solicited from TA supervisors by the GDBBS office immediately upon completion of the TA assignment (i.e., at the same time that the TA evaluations are solicited). The Student Teaching Assignment Committee will judge the nominees and choose the winner(s) of the award. This committee is typically composed of the GDBBS Director of Student Development, and a minimum of five members drawn from alumni and non-GDBBS faculty.

B. STUDENT GUIDELINES

1. Open Rotation Policy

A founding principle of the GDBBS is that any institutional funds provided for student support follow the student. The GDBBS Programs are interdisciplinary training Programs intended to provide maximum flexibility to students when they are selecting a dissertation project and a mentor. To assure that students have this flexibility, the following policy was approved in 1996 and revised in 1999 by the GDBBS Executive Committee and Advisory Council, as well as by the Deans of the Laney Graduate School and the School of Medicine:

Students have the option of doing laboratory rotations with any GDBBS faculty member and may do a lab rotation with a faculty member who is not a GDBBS faculty member; however, the student can only select as dissertation mentor a faculty member who is in a GDBBS Program. Hence, a faculty member that is not yet a member of a GDBBS Program will need to join a GDBBS Program before becoming the assigned dissertation mentor.

The GDBBS expects three (3) laboratory rotations; however, students may do up to 4 rotations by petitioning the program DGS. More than 4 rotations are not allowed except in extenuating circumstances. A 4th rotation occurring in the summer might be structured differently and needs to be approved by the program DGS.

If a student elects to train in the laboratory of a GDBBS faculty member who is not a member of the Program in which the student originally enrolled, three options are available to accommodate the student's wishes.

- The student's mentor can apply to join the student's Program.
- If the student is in good academic standing, he/she can change Programs, provided both Programs agree and the student meets any requirements for the transfer set forth by the receiving Program. Students must complete the LGS Request for Program Transfer form, which is then reviewed by the Dean of the LGS.
- If a student cannot be accommodated under provisions 1 or 2, issues related to Program affiliation and Division status will be resolved on an individual basis at the Division level. In the latter case, a student wishing to change Programs should consult with the GDBBS Director to discuss his/her choice of mentor and Program affiliation. Decisions will be based on what is best for the student; every attempt will be made to place the student in the environment that would be most beneficial to his/her training goals.

2. Students Rotating and Affiliating with Faculty who are not GDBBS Faculty

GDBBS students may do rotations with faculty that are not within the GDBBS faculty, but their dissertation
mentor must be a GDBBS faculty member; this may require that the selected faculty member goes through the process of officially joining a GDBBS Program. If a rotation mentor is in debt to the Faculty Stipend Reserve Fund they must pay that student’s stipend during the period of the rotation.

3. Choosing a Mentor

Programs must notify the GDBBS office when students affiliate with a mentor by submitting a GDBBS Mentor Agreement form. Students must choose a lab in which to perform their dissertation research before the end of their second academic year. Note that the signature of the Advisor, the student, the Program Director/DGS, and the Department chair must all be secured. Students have the option of changing programs, with approval. The program expectations follow the program the student is in. Students may wish to review the LGS Student Guide for Building Successful Mentoring Relationships, which is posted at http://www.gs.emory.edu/uploads/Mentoring%20Guide_Student_final.pdf.

4. Candidacy

All students are required to follow the Laney Graduate School requirements for candidacy. A student may become a candidate for the PhD degree after successfully passing both the written and oral qualifying exam, and completing all program course requirements. Details can be found at http://www.gs.emory.edu/academics/policies/candidacy.html, or in the LGS handbook, http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs/phd/candidacy.html.

To be eligible for candidacy, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete all program requirements for candidacy: coursework and other training required by the degree program, including program required JPE training

2. Complete qualifying examinations required by the degree program

3. Select Dissertation Committee and submit LGS Dissertation Committee Form

4. Complete TATTO 600, TATTO 605, and JPE 600

5. Resolve any Incomplete (I) or In Progress (IP) grades

6. Be in good standing with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA

7. Have earned at least 54 credit hours at the 500 level or above

Students must reach candidacy by September 15 of their fourth year. The form is found at http://www.gs.emory.edu/academics/policies/candidacy.html, and the completed form, with required signatures and supporting documents, must be submitted to the Program PA. Students who do not meet this deadline will be placed on academic probation, will not be eligible for PDS funds, and may forfeit financial support. These sanctions will be lifted when the student enters candidacy.

This policy is effective starting Fall 2017 (including students who participated in Early Start in Summer 2017). For students who entered their program prior to Fall 2017 they must reach candidacy no later than August 1 before their fifth year of study, and they will not be placed on probation if they fail to meet the candidacy deadline.
5. Dissertation Committees

a) Ph.D. Committees

The dissertation committee should be formed and meet as soon as possible after choosing a laboratory in which to train, but no later than the end of the third year. The committee consists of the dissertation advisor and at least three other qualified scientists (programs may have more strict requirements), the advisor and at least two of whom are members of the GDBBS faculty. In the event a reader from outside the university is selected, the dissertation director will supply the credentials of the proposed reader and seek approval from the Dean of the Laney Graduate School.

Students must file a dissertation committee form to obtain LGS approval for their committee. GDBBS students must submit their form by the end of their third year in the program, which is earlier than the LGS deadline of March 15th of their fourth year. Students who do not meet the GDBBS deadline will no longer be in good academic standing. Students who do not meet the LGS deadline will be placed on academic probation, will not be eligible for PDS funds, and may forfeit financial support. These sanctions will be lifted when the student files a dissertation committee form. See [http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs/phd/dissertation-committee.html](http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs/phd/dissertation-committee.html).

If the membership of a dissertation committee changes, the student must submit a change of dissertation committee form as soon as possible. When a student submits a completed dissertation, the membership of the committee must match the members listed on the most recent dissertation committee form on file with the LGS.

Students must meet with their Dissertation Committee at least once per year after passing qualifying examinations and the end of the third year in the Program. Starting in the fourth year in the Program, students must meet with their Dissertation Committee at least every six months. Starting in the seventh year in the Program and beyond, students must meet with their Dissertation Committee at least every four months. Students are required to include IDP slides as part of their presentation to their committee at each committee meeting. These slides are meant to ensure that discussion takes place about the student’s career goals and objectives.

In scheduling Dissertation Committee meetings, students are allowed to have only one committee member absent from the meeting. In those cases, the student must meet with the absent committee member within two (2) weeks, in order to both consult on progress and get the Dissertation Committee meeting form signed.

Within two (2) weeks of the Dissertation Committee meeting taking place, the student must submit to the relevant Program Administrator in the GDBBS office the appropriate form documenting that the Dissertation Committee has met and approved the student’s progress. The form must include comments from the advisor making clear statements regarding expectations for student progress over the period leading to the next Dissertation Committee meeting. (In addition, the student should make sure that those comments are addressed at the next Dissertation Committee meeting.)

Programs may have stricter policies than the above.

Three GDBBS faculty signatures are required on the degree clearance form in order to successfully complete the degree. Any committee member who does not sign or is in the minority regarding the committee’s recommendation will be required to submit a written explanation to the GDBBS Executive Committee, which will prepare a recommendation to the Laney Graduate School Dean. Absences can be documented with a simple email to the GDBBS Director.
b) Terminal Masters

To receive a terminal Masters degree, all Division Programs require that a student must perform a research project and complete an acceptable Masters Thesis. Programs must notify the GDBBS and LGS when they learn that a student will be leaving with a terminal Masters. The Masters thesis committee consists of at least three faculty members. The signatures of the advisor and two GDBBS faculty members are required on the LGS degree clearance form to successfully complete the degree.

6. Dissertation Completion Time

Students are expected to complete their dissertations and apply for their degrees within six years. If a student has not completed the degree at the end of the seventh year, the program may grant a one-year extension and submit notice of this extension to the Dean.

If a student has not completed the degree at the end of the eighth year, the student may continue work for at most one additional academic year and only with approval from the Dean. This policy is effective starting Fall 2017 (and for students who participated in Early Start in Summer 2017). For students who entered their program prior to Fall 2017 the existing policy at that time remains in effect. See http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs/phd/dissertation-completion.html for details and deadlines.

7. Minimum Standards for Academic Performance

All GDBBS students must maintain a minimum term GPA of 3.0 in each semester of graduate work. If a student's term GPA is below 3.0 in any one semester of work, that student will be placed on academic probation and the student cannot receive a grade of less than B in any subsequent course. If a student's term GPA falls below 3.0 in any two semesters of work, or if he/she receives one F or U grade in any course, that will lead to the Division Director recommending to the LGS that the student be dismissed from the Program. If a student who has been recommended for dismissal from the Program believes there were extenuating circumstances that adversely affected his/her performance, he/she may submit to the Division Director a written appeal for consideration of reinstatement. The appeal should clearly outline the extenuating circumstances and must be submitted within one month of grades being recorded by the Office of the Registrar. The Program shall also submit a recommendation as part of the appeal. All appeals will be reviewed by the GDBBS Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee approves the appeal then the student continues in the Program. If the appeal is not upheld then the GDBBS Director notifies the LGS, and the LGS terminates the student. If a student goes on official LGS probation a second time, in any semester, this serves as cause for an automatic dismissal from the Division and the LGS will terminate the student.

Both the LGS and GDBBS have certain requirements in place, such as the need for submitting all required forms (including the application for candidacy) and having dissertation committee meetings within the required time frames. Failure to meet LGS or GDBBS requirements will result in the student being considered not in good standing with respect to academic performance. As such, they are ineligible for PDS funds.

8. Appeals

If a student in a GDBBS graduate program believes that either a grade or a grade leading to recommendation to dismiss the student was impacted by extenuating circumstances that adversely affected his/her performance, he/she may appeal the grade or the dismissal to the Division Director, and request a reconsideration of the grade or the dismissal. The appeal should clearly outline the extenuating circumstances and must be submitted within one month of grades being recorded by the Office of the Registrar, or the letter recommending dismissal being
received by the student. The graduate program will be asked to respond to the appeal, and will follow the grade appeals process outlined in the handbook of student’s graduate program. The student will be notified of the decision by the Program Director of the graduate program and the GDBBS Director.

If the Program vote was unanimous, and the student believes the appeal is not resolved, the appeal will be relayed directly to the Laney Graduate School, bypassing review by the GDBBS Executive Committee.

If the graduate program vote on the appeal was not unanimous, and the student believes the appeal is not resolved, the student can appeal to the GDBBS Executive Committee. The same document that was presented to the graduate program for their review of the appeal should be sent to the GDBBS Director. Appeals will be reviewed by the GDBBS Executive Committee which consists of the Program Directors of the eight graduate programs and the GDBBS Director, minus the Program Director of the graduate program(s) directly involved in the appeal. The GDBBS Director will provide the appeal materials to help ensure consistency across the Division, but will not vote except in the need of a tie-breaker. The Program Directors and GDBBS Director will review the material and meet face-to-face to discuss. A majority of the Program Directors must be present at the meeting, and only those who are present can vote. Votes will be taken via SurveyMonkey to ensure confidentiality. If the appeal is denied the GDBBS Director will immediately notify the LGS. If the appeal is accepted the GDBBS Director will notify the student and the Program Director and DGS of the graduate program.

9. Grievance Policy

Students who have a grievance related to some aspect of their PhD program should submit a detailed letter describing the grievance and the relevant details to the appropriate person, as detailed below. The process starts at the graduate program level, unless the grievance involves the Program Director or DGS of that program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Focus of Grievance</th>
<th>Process Starts With</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Within the student’s Program</td>
<td>Director or DGS, as appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Program Director or DGS</td>
<td>Director of the GDBBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GDBBS or GDBBS Director</td>
<td>LGS Senior Associate Dean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grievances submitted to the Program (level 1 above) will be handled according to that Program’s grievance policy. If the grievance cannot be resolved at the Program level, the student may file a grievance addressed to the Senior Associate Dean of the Laney Graduate School, who will follow LGS Grievance Procedure (http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/honor-conduct-grievance/grievance.html).

If the grievance is submitted to the Director of the GDBBS because it involves the Program Director or DGS of a program (level 2 above), he/she will review the grievance documentation and will try to resolve the grievance in conversation with the student and relevant parties. If this is not successful, the GDBBS Director will ask a committee consisting of the eight Program Directors and the GDBBS Director, minus the Program that is directly involved in the grievance, to review the grievance and propose an appropriate response. The GDBBS Director will provide the grievance materials to help ensure consistency across the Division, but will not vote except in the need of a tie-breaker. All grievance discussions will take place in a formal face-to-face meeting scheduled typically within one week of the grievance being filed. A majority of the Program Directors must be present at the meeting, and only those who are present can vote. Votes will be taken via SurveyMonkey to ensure confidentiality.

If the grievance cannot be resolved at the Division level, the GDBBS Director will refer the matter to the Senior Associate Dean of the Laney Graduate School, who will refer the matter to the LGS Committee on Grievances, which is composed of three graduate faculty members. The Director of the GDBBS and the Director of the
10. Publication Requirements

We expect all students to have accomplished an original, significant, and scholarly body of work before the defense of the thesis. The magnitude of this accomplishment is such that the work should result in multiple publications with the students as the first author. Each program may set its own standards for number and type of publications expected but it is unlikely that the dissertation defense will be approved in the absence of at least one significant original research paper accepted for publication by a credible professional journal.

11. Students in Academic Difficulty

Programs must inform the Division when students are not meeting required standards. This information should be provided to the Division Director and to the GDBBS Director of Student Development. The GDBBS will work with the programs to ensure that proper GDBBS and LGS policy and procedures are followed in a timely manner.

12. Student Support Services

Graduate school can be a stressful time on your body and mind. Be sure you are taking care of yourself. Go to Laney Graduate School student support page and the LGS/GDBBS support page for links to all student support services available to you:

http://www.gs.emory.edu/guides/students/support.html

https://secure.web.emory.edu/biomed/intranet/students/Resources%20for%20Students.html

13. Vacation Leave

Graduate study is a full time endeavor. Students receive a stipend and are expected to be actively attending classes or conducting research and working toward the degree year round, including the period between terms. The time between terms (along with Fall and Spring Break) is considered an active part of the training period and is not considered a vacation or holiday. Students will continue to receive stipends during vacations and official University holidays. Students on training grants and fellowships may receive leave for the same vacations and holidays available to individuals in comparable training positions at Emory. Unauthorized absences may result in an unsatisfactory research grade for the term (i.e., in fall, spring, or summer), and could thereby lead to probation. Students who are funded by research grants are allowed up to two weeks of vacation each year, in addition to official University holidays. Students who wish to take vacation leave must discuss this with their DGS (if in the first year) or Dissertation Advisor (after mentor assignment) and receive approval at least two weeks before the planned absence. Students who wish to take additional periods of times off must get approval from their Program’s DGS and their Dissertation Advisor. In any year of training, if a student wishes to take time off that totals three weeks or more, per year, they must get approval from the Division Director at least one month before the planned absence.

14. Parental Leave

Students with substantial parenting responsibility as a result of childbirth, newborn care, or a newly adopted child can request parental leave. The maximum term of approved paid leave is eight weeks, and up to four of those weeks may be situated before the anticipated birth or adoption date. Students seeking a parental leave
accommodation need to speak with their Dissertation Advisor at least 3 months before the accommodation is anticipated, and then complete the LGS Parental Accommodation Request. See the LGS website at http://www.gs.emory.edu/academics/policies/absence.html for details.

15. Leave of Absence and Withdrawals

To request a leave of absence or withdrawal see the LGS guidelines at http://gs.emory.edu/handbook/academic-affairs/standards/withdrawals-leaves-of-absence.html#voluntary. All requests must be approved by the Program Executive Committee of the student's Program, and then forwarded to the GDBBS office for the Director's approval. The Dean of the Laney Graduate School must give the final approval for any leave.

16. Part Time Appointments

All students are expected to be full time students. Any requests for part time enrollment must be approved by the Executive Committee of the GDBBS.

17. Students Completing Their Degree Off Campus

Contact the GDBBS office to work out the details of students completing their studies off campus. Details must be worked out for continuation of stipend, maintenance of active status with the University, health insurance, completion of requirements, and dissertation defense.

18. Travel Funds

Please see guidelines located at http://www.gdbbs.emory.edu/students/travel.html to apply for Professional Development Support funds from the Laney Graduate School. Students should read all of the information pertaining to the type of PDS funds they plan to apply for so they understand the policies and procedures. Additional details can be found on the LGS website at http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu/professional-development/pds/index.html. Students may apply for additional funds through the Graduate Student Council website http://emory.orgsync.com/org/graduatestudentcouncil/Travel.

Both the LGS and GDBBS have certain requirements in place, such as the need for submitting all required forms (including the application for candidacy) and having dissertation committee meetings within the required time frames. Failure to meet LGS or GDBBS requirements will result in the student being considered not in good standing with respect to academic performance. As such, they are ineligible for PDS funds.

In addition, students have a responsibility to advertise our Programs and to make contact with potential students whenever possible. The GDBBS encourages all faculty members and students to visit predominantly undergraduate institutions and talk with prospective students. This is particularly effective at your alma mater. Students visiting their alma maters to advertise our Programs and recruit students will be reimbursed for expenses up to a total of $500, with 50% paid by the Division and 50% paid by the Program. The student must get the approval from their program and complete an Intent to Travel Form prior to travel (this is located on the website). In order to qualify for reimbursement by the Division the student must represent all Division Programs, take appropriate Division publication material, and provide the Division with the trip information prior to beginning travel.
19. **Acknowledgment of Program Affiliation**

Published abstracts or papers on which students are listed as an author or co-author should indicate the student's affiliation with the "Graduate Program in (insert the name of the Program in which the student is enrolled) of the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences."