

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

MBB 806 - 3

PhD Candidacy Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. N. Harden (nharden@sfu.ca)
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Description/objectives/Format: Oral presentation and defense of a written PhD research proposal. Students will be examined on their knowledge relevant to the proposed research, capacity to complete the proposed thesis research (including any relevant preliminary results), and understanding of the broader field of study. All PhD students enrolled in the MBB PhD graduate program must take MBB 806.

Each student will prepare a written proposal of thesis research using the format of a grant application, demonstrating that the research will be original, feasible, and significant. The proposal should include a statement of goals for the PhD research program, the significance of the proposed study, a review of the most significant literature related to the topic, a summary of research progress, and a description of the proposed research, including methods to be used. The student will present a seminar on the proposed thesis research project, and will be examined by the course instructor(s) and members of the supervisory committee. Questions will be on topics related to the research project, and on the larger context relevant to the research field. Other students enrolled in the course can attend the seminar/examination and may participate in the questioning.

Grading: This course represents a PhD candidacy examination. It will be graded by course instructor(s) (MBB faculty members) with consultation from the student's supervisory committee. Evaluation will be based on the student's capacity to effectively communicate the subject matter of the proposed thesis research, knowledge relevant to the proposed research and broader field of study, significance of the proposed research, and feasibility of completing the proposed research.

Prerequisites: Enrolment in MBB 806 requires permission of the student's supervisory committee based on suitable research performance; after this permission is granted, MBB 806 must be completed within the following two semesters. See <http://www.sfu.ca/mbb/Grad/Courses.html> for a supplementary course outline and MBB 806 application form.

Students requiring accommodations for a disability must contact:

Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or e-mail: csdo@sfu.ca).

All students are subject to and responsible for being familiar with the SFU academic integrity policy and the plagiarism tutorial: <http://students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity/index.html>

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial>

For help with writing, learning and study strategies please contact:

Student Learning Commons, <http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/>