

First Year Exam Procedure for EEOB Students

All first-year graduate students in the EEOB Ph.D. program in Biology are required to provide a written summary of their progress at the end of the spring semester. This summary will consist of three documents: 1) a completed copy of the Annual Development Plan form, 2) a bibliography of journal articles and books read during the first year, and 3) a document outlining 1-3 potential thesis topics. This document should be 2-6 pages in length, excluding references, and discuss why these particular topics were selected and where they fit into the broader context of the student's field of study. These documents will be due on the last day of classes of spring semester.

A committee consisting of the student's advisor and two EEOB members selected by the Director of Graduate Students will evaluate the student's first year progress. The committee will read the documents provided by the student and then arrange a one hour meeting for a general discussion and feedback. While this meeting will focus the student's potential thesis topic(s), questions and discussion may cover any EEOB topic considered appropriate by the examining committee. A student will be scored as making "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" progress toward their degree. Students scored as making unsatisfactory progress will be placed on probation with the expectation they will be making satisfactory progress by the end of their third semester. They will be reassessed at the end of their third semester by providing the exam committee with updates of the same three documents presented to their committee at the end of the previous semester. Students judged as not making satisfactory progress will be asked to leave the program.