

**GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY**  
**SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

For questions regarding the preliminary qualifying examination, contact Michael Ariel, Ph.D.  
([michael.ariel@health.slu.edu](mailto:michael.ariel@health.slu.edu)).

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Club and Seminars is also required, as is participation as teachers in the undergraduate course *Drugs We Use and Abuse* (PPY 1450). Students are expected to complete their dissertation work, including the oral defense of the written document, by the end of their fifth year (fourth year in Pharmacology and Physiology). Students must present a public seminar on their work upon successful defense of their dissertation.

**PPY 5110 - Introduction to Pharmacology (1 credit hour)** This course meets during in the Fall semester. It covers the topics of: binding theory; concepts of ligand efficacy and potency; partial agonists and antagonists; allosteric modulators; quantitative pharmacology (technology & statistical tools);

**PPY 6900 - Pharmacology and Physiology Journal Club (0-1 credit hour).** This course is scheduled weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters. It consists of weekly journal club presentations at which students discuss recent research findings and papers from the literature. The results of the faculty evaluation forms are discussed with each student individually by the Journal Club course director.

**Grading Policy and Remediation.** Course grades are awarded at the discretion of the course director. Below is a general outline of departmental policies.

**PPY- 5110, 5120, 5130, and 5140** Course Directors report the letter grade assigned to each student









## **ADVANCEMENT TO DOCTORAL CANDIDACY STATUS**

Upon successful completion of the written and oral examinations, the Doctoral Candidacy Advisor submits the [Doctoral Oral Examination Form](#) by email to Dr. Christine F. Harper ([christine.harper@slu.edu](mailto:christine.harper@slu.edu)), Doctoral Candidacy Specialist, Office of Graduate Education, DuBourg Hall, Room 420D (phone: 314-977-2243). Receipt of this form by the Graduate Education Office automatically advances the student to doctoral candidate status. Students are required to be enrolled in at least one hour of dissertation credit upon achieving doctoral candidacy status until completion of required credits (see “Advancement to Candidacy: Research Phase” under [Graduation Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy \(Ph.D.\) students](#)).

## **DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND DEFENSE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION.**

Students are referred to Sections 3-7 of [Process for Students Pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy Saint Louis University](#) for descriptions of the written requirements for successful completion of the doctoral



students are expected to obtain and maintain institutional certifications relevant to their activities, in areas such as animal care, biosafety, human subjects, hazardous waste handling and disposal, and emergency preparedness.

Failure to comply with these standards is grounds for dismissal.

**Monitoring Student Progress and Performance.** While enrolled in the Pharmacology and Physiology Graduate Program, student progress is monitored by the departmental Graduate Steering Committee. Progress is gauged by grades awarded at the end of each semester, and during annual meetings of each student with the departmental Graduate Steering Committee.



Dissertation Committee and to file formal Ph.D. candidacy papers with the Graduate School. Again the requirements for this process are identical to those described above for standard departmental Ph.D. students except one member of the dissertation committee must serve on the M.D./Ph.D. steering committee (not the mentor).

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the M.D. Curriculum and USMLE Step 1. M.D./Ph.D. trainees receive up to 30 graduate credits that are transferred from Phases 1 and 2 courses as listed elsewhere in this Guidebook.

**Required Didactic and Participatory Department of Pharmacology and Physiology Courses during Ph.D. Training Years:**

- PPY-5110 Introduction to Pharmacology and Drug Discovery
- PPY-5140 Fundamentals of Effective Grant Construction
- PPY-6800 Pharmacology and Physiology Departmental Seminar
- PPY-6900 Pharmacology and Physiology Colloquium Journal Club

**PPY-5110 Introduction to Pharmacology (PPY-5110)** (1 credit). This course meets during Aug-Sep of the Fall semester. It covers the topics of: binding theory; concepts of ligand efficacy and potency; partial agonists and antagonists; allosteric modulators; quantitative pharmacology (technology & statistical tools); biotransformation; drug pharmacokinetics; basic principles of medicinal chemistry; and structure/function relationships in drug design. In class time includes two sessions of problem-based practice and review; two in-class exams comprise the final course grade.

**PPY-5140 Fundamentals of Effective Grant Construction** (1 credit). Beginning

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS.

**Office of Professional Oversight.** The Office of Professional Oversight is responsible for providing all stakeholders (students, trainees, faculty and physicians) a fair and neutral environment to seek assistance and support, file a grievance, or report acts of unprofessional behavior or concerns. In addition, the Director of the Office of Professional Oversight also serves as the Ombudsperson for Saint Louis University School of Medicine. The Office of Professional Oversight can assist all members of the School of Medicine community with issues related to conflict resolution, interpersonal communication, academic, professional, or administrative concerns. The goal is to provide each of these services in an environment that is built upon trust, confidentiality and neutrality.

<https://www.slu.edu/medicine/professional-oversight/index.php>

**Graduate Student Parental Leave Policy.** This policy establishes guidelines to protect the interests of graduate students who, while in the course of their graduate academic program, become the primary caregiver to a newborn or adopted child.

[https://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/pdfs/g\\_s\\_parental\\_leave\\_policy.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/pdfs/g_s_parental_leave_policy.pdf)