

Genomics, Phenomics, and Bioinformatics

Department Information

- **Program Director:**
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- **Email:**
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- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/gpb/ (<http://www.ndsu.edu/gpb/>)
- **Application Deadline:**
International applications are due May 1 for fall semester and October 1 for spring and summer semesters. Domestic applicants should apply at least one month prior to the start of classes.
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D., M.S.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL iBT 71, IELTS 6; Duolingo 105

The Genomics, Phenomics, and Bioinformatics (GPB) program is an interdisciplinary graduate program that spans multiple colleges at North Dakota State University (NDSU). The program offers Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in three program areas: functional genomics, phenomics, and bioinformatics.

The program is designed to provide students the necessary skills and intellectual background to work cooperatively with others in a research area that take a systems-wide approach to the study of the organization of life and expression and regulation of genes in an organism. Students in the program will perform advanced study, training and research in areas that focus on functional genomics, high-throughput phenotyping, and computation analysis of genomic and phenomics data. Students will learn and master the multi-omics approaches for research in many frontiers. Exposure to modern techniques, instrumentation, computational and statistical methods will prepare the student for success in both industrial and academic careers.

Faculty in the program have broad research focuses including plant and human growth and development, reproduction, defense against abiotic and biotic stresses, and computational and statistical methods.

Visit the program website to find more information about the program, including faculty members and their research: www.ndsu.edu/gpb/faculty_and_research/ (https://www.ndsu.edu/gpb/faculty_and_research/).

It is the intent of the program to admit students into one of three tracks. The Functional Genomics track will be for students interested in the generation and application of genomic information. The Bioinformatics track is intended for students interested in using computational and statistical approaches to analyze large amounts of genomic data. The Phenomics track will be attractive to students interested in the application of high-throughput equipment to measure important traits necessary for full expression of the traits necessary for the organism to productively complete its life cycle.

The program is open to qualified graduates of universities of recognized standing. The Graduate School minimum for the TOEFL examination applies. In addition, the following are the requirements to be admitted with full standing.

Functional Genomics track: a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree with an introductory biology class emphasizing molecular biology; with courses in genetics, physiology, biochemistry; an upper-division statistics class. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0.

Bioinformatics and Phenomics tracks: a B.S. degree with an introductory biology class emphasizing molecular biology; with courses in calculus, upper-division statistics class, calculus or matrix algebra, and programming language experience. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0.

Students can be accepted conditionally into any track without meeting the course or GPA requirements, but will be required to meet those requirements while in residency.

Adviser and Supervisory Committee

During the first year, the student will form a supervisory committee and submit the Plan of Study to the Graduate School. The committee must include the student's major adviser, at least one other faculty member of the Genomics, Phenomics, and Bioinformatics program, and a third member from outside the student's home college. For Ph.D. students only, a fourth member of the committee serves as the Graduate School Representative (GSR). Requirements for GSR can be found here (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/graduate/graduate-school-policies/doctoral-degree-policies/#planofstudysupervisorycommitteetext>).

Master's Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Functional Genomics - Thesis Option		
Core Courses		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI/MATH/STAT 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
PLSC 721	Genomics Techniques (BIOC 674 is 3 credits)	2
or BIOC 674	Methods of Recombinant DNA Technology	
796 Current Topics in Genomics (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
790 Graduate Seminar		1
Electives: At least one course from two elective areas		9
798 Master's Thesis (6-10)		
Total Credits		30

Code	Title	Credits
Functional Genomics Comprehensive Study Option		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
PLSC 721	Genomics Techniques (or)	2
BIOC 674	Methods of Recombinant DNA Technology	3
796 Current Topics (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
790 Graduate Seminar		1
Electives: At least one course from two elective areas		
797 Master's Paper		4
Total Credits		30

Code	Title	Credits
Bioinformatics - Thesis Option		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
CSCI 859	Computational Methods in Bioinformatics	3
796 Current Topics (1 credit, two semesters)		2
790 Graduate Seminar		1
Electives: At least one course from two elective areas		9
798 Master's Thesis		6-10
Total Credits		30

Code	Title	Credits
Bioinformatics Comprehensive Study Option		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
CSCI 859	Computational Methods in Bioinformatics	3
796 Current Topics (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
790 Graduate Seminar		1
Electives: At least one course from two elective areas		15
797 Master's Paper		4
Total Credits		30

Code	Title	Credits
Phenomics Thesis Option		
CSCI 679	Introduction to Data Mining	3
ABEN 747	Numerical Modeling of Environmental and Biological Systems	3
Physiology Elective		3
796 Special Topics (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
790 Graduate Seminar		1
Electives: At least one course from two elective areas		9
798 Master's Thesis		6-10
Total Credits		30

Code	Title	Credits
Physiology Electives		
ANSC 663	Physiology of Reproduction	3
BIOL 660	Animal Physiology	3
BIOL 662	Physiological Ecology	3
BIOL 664	Endocrinology	3
BIOL 683	Cellular Mechanisms of Disease	3
BIOL 825	Biology of Aging	3
BIOL 861	Advanced Physiology - Physiology of Extremes	3
MICR 650		3
MICR 680	Microbial Physiology	3
PPTH 751	Physiology Of Plant Disease	3
PLSC 686	Applied Crop Physiology	3
PLSC 750	Crop Stress Physiology	3
PSCI 747	Cardiovascular Pharmacology	3
PSCI 762	Advanced Biopharmaceutics	2
PSCI 765	Cancer Cell Biology	2
Gene Expression		
BIOC 660	Foundations of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I	3
BIOC 683	Cellular Signal Transduction Processes and Metabolic Regulation	3
BIOC 719	Molecular Biology of Gene Expression and Regulation	3
BIOC 723	Structural Basis of Membrane Transport and Signaling	3
BIOL 682	Developmental Biology	3
BIOL 820	Advanced Cell Biology	3
MICR 775		3
PLSC 731	Plant Molecular Genetics	3
Genetics and Genomics Electives		
ANSC 657		3
ANSC 750		1
ANSC 751		1
ANSC 752		1
BIOL 679	Biomedical Genetics and Genomics	3
BIOL 859	Evolution	3
BIOL 860	Evolutionary Ecology	3
BIOL 862	Environment and Adaptation	3
MICR 681	Microbial Genomics with Computational Laboratory	3
MICR 682	Microbial Genetics	3
MICR 783	Advanced Bacterial Genetics and Phage	3
PLSC 631	Intermediate Genetics (required for Functional Genomics Option)	3
PLSC 741		4
PLSC 751	Advanced Plant Genetics	3

PLSC 782	Population and Quantitative Genetics	4
PPTH 755	Population Biology of Plant Pathogens	3
PPTH 759	Host-Parasite Genetics	3
PSCI 617	Pharmacogenomics	2
Computer Science, Statistics, and Computational Biology Electives		
ANSC 850	Linear Models in Animal Breeding	1
ANSC 851	Genetic Prediction	1
ANSC 852	Applied Variance Component Estimation	1
ANSC 856		1
BIOL 842	Quantitative Biology	3
BIOL 877	Analysis of Population and Demographic Data	3
CSCI 679	Introduction to Data Mining	3
CSCI 724	Survey of Artificial Intelligence	3
CSCI 736	Computational Intelligence	3
CSCI 765	Introduction to Database Systems	3
CSCI 879		3
MATH 630	Graph Theory	3
MATH 636	Combinatorics	3
MATH 684	Mathematical Methods of Biological Processes	3
MATH 830	Graph Theory	3
MATH 839	Topics in Combinatorics and Discrete Mathematics	3
MATH 867	Topics in Applied Mathematics	3
MICR 724		3
PLSC 749	Applied Plant Molecular Breeding	3
PH 674	Epidemiology	3
PH 706	Essentials of Epidemiology	3
PH 731	Biostatistics	3
PH 750	Epidemiologic Methods I	2
PH 752	Epidemiologic Methods II	2
PLSC 724	Field Design I	3
STAT 650	Stochastic Processes	3
STAT 661	Applied Regression Models (required for Bioinformatics Ph.D. option)	3
STAT 711	Basic Computational Statistics using R	3
STAT 712	Applied Statistical Machine Learning	3
STAT 713	Introduction to Data Science	3
STAT 714	Statistical Big Data Visualization	3
STAT 725	Applied Statistics	3
STAT 764	Multivariate Methods	3
STAT 840	Introduction to Statistical Design and Analysis of Gene Expression Experiments	3
STAT 851	Bayesian Statistical Inference	3
STAT 860	Statistical Machine Learning	3
Modeling and Sensing Electives		
ABEN 747	Numerical Modeling of Environmental and Biological Systems	3
ABEN 758	Applied Computer Imaging and Sensing for Biosystems	3
CE 725	Biomaterials-Materials in Biomedical Engineering	3
CSCI 628	Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the Environment	3
GEOG 655	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
GEOG 656	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	3
GEOG 670	Remote Sensing	3
GEOG 680	Geographic Information Systems Pattern Analysis and Modeling	3
PAG 654	Applications of Precision Agriculture	3

Doctoral Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Functional Genomics		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
PLSC 721	Genomics Techniques (or)	2
or BIOC 674	Methods of Recombinant DNA Technology	
796 Current Topics (1 credit, 3 semesters)		3
790 Graduate Seminar (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
Requested Core Courses (unless in M.S. transcript)		
PLSC 631	Intermediate Genetics	3
STAT 726	Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance	3
Graduate Evolution Course		
Electives: At least one course from three elective areas		15
899 Doctoral Dissertation		up to 90

Code	Title	Credits
Bioinformatics Option		
PLSC 611	Genomics	3
CSCI 732	Introduction To Bioinformatics	3
CSCI 859	Computational Methods in Bioinformatics	3
796 Current Topics (1 credit, 3 semesters)		3
790 Graduate Seminar (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
Required Core Courses (unless in M.S. transcript)		
CSCI 679	Introduction to Data Mining	3
CSCI 765	Introduction to Database Systems	3
STAT 661	Applied Regression Models	3
Electives: At least one course from three elective areas		15
899 Doctoral Dissertation		up to 90

Code	Title	Credits
Phenomics Option		
CSCI 679	Introduction to Data Mining	3
ABEN 747	Numerical Modeling of Environmental and Biological Systems	3
Physiology Course		3
796 Current Topics (1 credit, 3 semesters)		3
790 Graduate Seminar (1 credit, 2 semesters)		2
STAT 726	Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance	3
CSCI 765	Introduction to Database Systems	3
Electives: At least one course from three elective areas		15
899 Doctoral Dissertation		up to 90

Code	Title	Credits
Physiology Electives		
ANSC 663	Physiology of Reproduction	3
BIOL 662	Physiological Ecology	3
BIOL 664	Endocrinology	3
BIOL 683	Cellular Mechanisms of Disease	3

BIOL 825	Biology of Aging	3
MICR 650		3
MICR 680	Microbial Physiology	3
MICR 785		3
PPTH 751	Physiology Of Plant Disease	3
PLSC 686	Applied Crop Physiology	3
PLSC 750	Crop Stress Physiology	3
PSCI 747	Cardiovascular Pharmacology	3
PSCI 762	Advanced Biopharmaceutics	2
PSCI 765	Cancer Cell Biology	2
Gene Expression Electives		
BIOC 660	Foundations of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I	3
BIOC 683	Cellular Signal Transduction Processes and Metabolic Regulation	3
BIOC 719	Molecular Biology of Gene Expression and Regulation	3
BIOC 723	Structural Basis of Membrane Transport and Signaling	3
BIOL 682	Developmental Biology	3
BIOL 820	Advanced Cell Biology	3
MICR 775		3
PLSC 731	Plant Molecular Genetics	3
Genetics and Genomics Electives		
ANSC 657		3
ANSC 750		1
ANSC 751		1
ANSC 752		1
BIOL 679	Biomedical Genetics and Genomics	3
BIOL 859	Evolution	3
BIOL 860	Evolutionary Ecology	3
BIOL 862	Environment and Adaptation	3
MICR 681	Microbial Genomics with Computational Laboratory	3
MICR 682	Microbial Genetics	3
PPTH 755	Population Biology of Plant Pathogens	3
PPTH 759	Host-Parasite Genetics	3
PLSC 631	Intermediate Genetics	3
PLSC 741		3
PLSC 751	Advanced Plant Genetics	3
PLSC 782	Population and Quantitative Genetics	4
PSCI 617	Pharmacogenomics	2
Computer Science, Statistics, and Computational Biology Electives		
ANSC 850	Linear Models in Animal Breeding	1
ANSC 851	Genetic Prediction	1
ANSC 852	Applied Variance Component Estimation	1
ANSC 856		1
BIOL 842	Quantitative Biology	3
BIOL 877	Analysis of Population and Demographic Data	3
CSCI 679	Introduction to Data Mining	3
CSCI 724	Survey of Artificial Intelligence	3
CSCI 736	Computational Intelligence	3
CSCI 765	Introduction to Database Systems	3
CSCI 879		3
MATH 630	Graph Theory	3
MATH 636	Combinatorics	3
MATH 830	Graph Theory	3

MATH 839	Topics in Combinatorics and Discrete Mathematics	3
MATH 864	Calculus Of Variations	3
MATH 867	Topics in Applied Mathematics	3
MICR 724		3
PLSC 749	Applied Plant Molecular Breeding	3
PH 674	Epidemiology	3
PH 706	Essentials of Epidemiology	3
PH 731	Biostatistics	3
PH 750	Epidemiologic Methods I	2
PH 752	Epidemiologic Methods II	2
PLSC 724	Field Design I	3
STAT 650	Stochastic Processes	3
STAT 661	Applied Regression Models	3
STAT 711	Basic Computational Statistics using R	3
STAT 712	Applied Statistical Machine Learning	3
STAT 713	Introduction to Data Science	3
STAT 714	Statistical Big Data Visualization	3
STAT 725	Applied Statistics	3
STAT 726	Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance	3
STAT 764	Multivariate Methods	3
STAT 840	Introduction to Statistical Design and Analysis of Gene Expression Experiments	3
STAT 851	Bayesian Statistical Inference	3
STAT 860	Statistical Machine Learning	3
Modeling and Sensing Electives		
ABEN 747	Numerical Modeling of Environmental and Biological Systems	3
ABEN 758	Applied Computer Imaging and Sensing for Biosystems	3
CE 725	Biomaterials-Materials in Biomedical Engineering	3
CSCI 628	Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the Environment	3
GEOG 655	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
GEOG 656	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	3
GEOG 665	Remote Sensing of the Environment	3
GEOG 670	Remote Sensing	3
GEOG 680	Geographic Information Systems Pattern Analysis and Modeling	3
PAG 654	Applications of Precision Agriculture	3

Examinations

1. **Qualifying Exam (Ph.D. only):** This exam consists of written and oral portions. The student will complete a written exam that emphasizes the application of materials presented in the core courses. The members of the graduate program faculty will submit these questions. The oral exam will be administered by the student's supervisory committee and will focus on material beyond the core courses that are specific to the research of the student. Upon completion of the qualifying exam, the student will be accepted as a Ph.D. candidate.
2. **Final Exam:** The final exam will be an oral defense of the student's research results. The student's supervisory committee will administer the exam.