

**Rules and Regulations of the  
Cancer Biology Graduate Program  
(CANB)**

**at**

**Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and  
the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth**

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### I. Program Structure and Administration

The Cancer Biology Graduate Program (CANB) is a degree-granting component program within the umbrella Molecular and Cellular Biology Program (MCB). CANB is directed by the Director of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, who serves as the equivalent of a “department chair” in working with other MCB component programs. CANB activities are overseen by the Director and, if appointed by the Director, a CANB Program Chair, who serves as the operational leader of the CANB Executive Committee. This Executive Committee consists of the Director, the Program Chair, 2-4 CANB Faculty Members (appointed by the NCCC Director for renewable terms of two years) and 1 CANB Student Representative (nominated by the CANB student body and appointed by the Director once every two years). From the CANB Executive Committee, two of the Faculty Members will represent CANB as part of the MCB Graduate Committee. The composition and functions of the MCB Graduate Committee are described in the [MCB Rules and Regulations](#).

### II. Student Admission

Students in MCB who join the laboratory of a faculty member who is part of CANB to conduct their thesis research are eligible to join CANB. If the faculty member has dual membership in CANB and another MCB component program, the student can choose to pursue a PhD in either CANB or the other component program. Only students who intend to pursue a PhD or MD/PhD degree full-time will be considered. It is the long-standing policy of the College to actively support equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of race or ethnic background, and no student will be denied admission or be otherwise discriminated against because of race, color, sex, religion, creed, age, national, or ethnic origin.

### III. PhD Degree Requirements

All MCB component programs including CANB require that students complete a set of common requirements for their degree, including:

- Three research rotations (Fall, Winter, Spring of the first year).
- Three terms of MCB core courses (Fall, Winter, Spring of the first year).
- One term of a teaching assistantship.\*
- An ethics course.
- A qualifying examination consisting of a written proposal and an oral defense.
- Three advanced elective courses from the approved elective list.
- Attendance at and participation in Journal Club meetings in 3 out of 4 terms each year.
- Attendance at MCB program functions.
- Preparation, presentation (seminar and defense), and submission of a thesis.

Complete rules can be found at: <https://graduate.dartmouth.edu/mcb/academics/degree-requirements/about>

\* this requirement may be waived for students who transfer into MCB from another program, subject to approval by the MCB Graduate Committee.

In addition to the above requirements, CANB requires that students complete:

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- *Cancer Biology* (CANB 126) as one of the advanced courses.
- *Introductory Applied Biostatistics with R* (CANB 103) as one of the advanced courses.
- Attendance at  $\geq 75\%$  of CANB Student Seminar Series events, and presentation of a seminar annually (subject to schedule availability and at the discretion of the CANB Executive Committee). These events will be held approximately once every other week, but no more than once per week, to provide seminar presentation opportunities for all CANB students.

### **IV. MS Degree Requirements**

CANB will not have a formal Master's degree program. However, once enrolled, a student's career goals, expectations, and/or level of performance can change and a student's best interest may be to leave CANB. Following consultation with the Thesis Advisor and approval of the CANB Executive Committee, a student who can no longer continue in the CANB PhD Program may be considered for pursuit of a Terminal Master's degree. Once approved by the CANB Executive Committee, the requirements for the Terminal Master's degree will follow MCB guidelines, as well as completion of the following courses: CANB 103 (*Biostatistics*) and CANB 126 (*Cancer Biology*).

### **V. Faculty Membership**

Faculty who meet the MCB requirements for membership are eligible to apply for CANB membership.

MCB Faculty who are members of another component program (BIOL, MSB, BCB, MICR) are eligible to apply for CANB membership.

Review process: The CANB Executive Committee will review CANB faculty membership once every two years to determine whether CANB Faculty Members are participating within the rules and regulations of CANB. CANB Faculty Member status may be withdrawn, after suitable warning, from anyone who consistently does not participate in CANB activities or adhere to CANB rules and regulations. The decision to withdraw membership from an individual will require approval by the majority of the CANB Executive Committee.