DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DEFENSE

In year 3 and no later than year 4, you are required to write a pre-doctoral NIH grant and defend it orally to your dissertation committee. The intent of the research proposal is to outline your plans (hypothesis, specific aims) for your dissertation research. Writing of your proposal begins in the Scientific Writing course taught in the summer of year 1. It is anticipated that before or after successful passage of your proposal defense, you submit an individual pre-doctoral grant to NIH, an association like the American Heart Association, or a foundation. The research proposal defense is the Ph.D. candidacy exam. If a student fails to complete the doctorate within 5 years after admission to candidacy, an extension of time can be obtained only by repeating the research proposal exam and meeting any other requirements specified by the student's committee.