

Animal Biology Graduate Group
Information for oral qualifying exam committees

The **goal** of the qualifying examination is to evaluate the student's eventual ability to pursue independent research. The student is expected to:

- Answer evaluative questions based on coursework and on the proposed area of research.
- Demonstrate mastery of the breadth and depth of animal biology.
- Defend two distinct disciplinary areas of animal biology in depth. (Statistics is not an acceptable choice of disciplinary area in this context.)
- Demonstrate independent and creative thinking and the ability to synthesize broad concepts with critical evaluation.

Exam guidelines:

- At least half to address integrative animal biology in a general context
 - Including whole animal biology; depth and breadth of knowledge described as the ability to organize and teach an introductory animal biology class such as ABI 50B or ANS 2. Each Animal Biology Graduate Group member is expected to ask at least one breadth question.
 - Knowledge of animals addressed in student's ABG 200B cohort
 - Depth in disciplinary areas (or interdisciplinary area) chosen by student
- No more than half to focus on the individual research proposal and related areas.
- Chair of the committee will determine the order of questioning.
- To facilitate examination of integrative abilities and critical reasoning related to the research proposal, the student will provide a written research proposal (3-5 pages) at least one week (168 hours) prior to the examination.

Required Coursework for Ph.D. in Animal Biology

-Integrated Animal Biology I and II

Catalog description 200A, 200B: Natural history, management, historical and current uses, and specialized disciplinary features of model and novel animal systems used in research. Development of conceptual approaches in organismal biology to improve experimental design and interpretation of interdisciplinary research studies.

Syllabi and additional information at: http://animalbiology.ucdavis.edu/csa/req_phd.html

-Interdisciplinary Area of Interest (8-20 u); at least 6 u as graded graduate level courses

-Statistical and Research Methods (at least 6 u graded graduate level from a series): PLS 205/206 recommended

-Scientific Writing/Grant Writing (1 course): ABG202, NPB 270 or NUT 492C recommended

-Ethics and Professionalism in Animal Biology (ABG401, 2 units)

-Disciplinary Seminar (2 quarters)

-Teaching experience and course for guidance (ABG 300 recommended).