

## Symposium Guidelines for PhD Students

When you have a reasonable idea of your planned research, register for BMI 657 Symposium (3 credits, Pass/No Pass). The goal of this class is to:

- demonstrate mastery of a body of research,
- identify multiple gaps in the research,
- provide a literature summary and draft research question(s) for your proposal
- obtain feedback from faculty and students
- help you prepare your qualifying exam packet if you present the symposium before taking the exam. You will need to write a brief proposal with your research plans to include in the packet for your qualifying exam committee.

It should be considered a “research-in-progress” talk. You must have 3 faculty members present at your presentation. They do not have to be members of your Advisory Committee, although your advisor should be present, if possible. It is your responsibility to make sure that they attend. Send them your slides one week before the presentation. They will need to sign the Symposium Approval Form in order for you to receive a pass.

The symposium should be a high-level presentation, not too granular, including a literature review that identifies gaps in the literature and possible research questions. This is a precursor of your dissertation proposal. While you won’t be expected to describe methods in detail, it is suggested that you have a general idea of how you would approach your research question(s). The presentation should be about 40 minutes long which leaves time for questions and feedback from faculty and students afterward.

Please contact Lynne Schwabe to schedule the date, time and room early in the term you plan to present. The slots at the end of the term fill up quickly.