Cognate and Advanced Research Methods Description

PhD students are expected to complete 12 credits (4 courses) of Cognate and 12 credits (4 courses) of Advanced Research Methods by the end of the 8th quarter in order to sit for the qualifying exam. It does not matter how many you take each term as long as you end up with 12 credits of each before you take the exam. Typically, students begin to take these classes at the beginning (summer term) of Year 2.

The Cognate is generally the clinical domain, such as cancer, addiction, sleep disorders, etc. The Advanced Research Methods domain consists of the bioinformatics tools and methods you need to conduct research in the clinical domain. I’ve attached a few Cognate areas that past students have studied as well as a list of Cognate courses students have taken. In this case, the coursework drives the schedule, rather than the other way around. I’ve also attached a list of Advanced Research Methods courses taken in the past.

Each student’s Cognate area is unique and each student takes different courses to satisfy this requirement. Therefore, schedules will vary depending on when the selected courses are offered. If you have not yet determined your Cognate area, your advisor can help you with that. If you know what your Cognate area (area of specialization, or “minor”) is, you will want to meet with a faculty advisor to determine which 4 courses to take.

One option that is available to you is to take 3 credits of either BMI 602 Independent Study or BMI 605 Reading & Conference and have this applied to your Cognate or to Advanced Research Methods. This is possible if there is an area you want to study and there is no existing course that covers that content. You would need to find a faculty member willing to teach this course to you (one-on-one) and to be the instructor of record. There is a form to complete requesting that it be applied to your Cognate or Advanced Research Methods; your advisor or the instructor would need to present this to the Curriculum Committee for a vote (they almost always approve this). Before you could register, I would need a completed 60X Form signed by you and the instructor. You may apply a maximum of 6 credits to Cognate and 6 credits to Advanced Research Methods in this manner.

Students may take BMI classes, classes in other departments at OHSU or classes at PSU to satisfy the Cognate and Advanced Research Methods requirements. All must be approved by your advisor.