INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: SPECIALIZATION IN TRANSLATIONAL BIOENGINEERING (PHD)

Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies, specialization in Translational Bioengineering
Unit: Graduate School (http://louisville.edu/graduate/) (GI)
Program Webpage (https://louisville.edu/translational-bioengineering/)
Academic Plan Code(s): IS_PHDTBE

Program Information

The Interdisciplinary Studies in Translational Bioengineering (ISSTBE) PhD program is designed to provide multidisciplinary training in translational bioengineering preparing students to lead research and development in academia, industry and governmental agencies and/or to advance bioengineering technologies through start-up companies as entrepreneurs or within established biomedical companies. This program is a collaborative effort between J.B. Speed School of Engineering, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, and the College of Business.

In this PhD program, students will have the opportunity to pursue graduate-level training in one of three tracks:

- Traditional Bioengineering Research
- Clinical Translational Research
- Advancement of Bioengineering Technologies through Entrepreneurship

Students must also choose one of the following concentration areas:

- Bioelectronics and Biomedical Devices
- Bioimaging and Biocomputational Modeling
- Biomechanics and Rehabilitation
- Molecular and Tissue Engineering

Students will initially be assigned an advisor to aid in course selection, to identify a primary research mentor and to choose a laboratory where they will conduct their research. Dissertation committee members will be assembled from participating faculty in the Schools of Engineering, Dentistry or Medicine, or the College of Business, representing opportunities to conduct research within a broad range of bioengineering topics and/or develop technology for a wide variety of clinical applications. Students who successfully complete the program will demonstrate excellence in designing and conducting research leading to an intellectual contribution to the field, demonstrate in-depth knowledge of their concentration area and associated scientific literature, have an understanding of the clinical relevance and ethical implications of their research, have the ability to critically analyze, evaluate and interpret research methods and findings, and have the ability to effectively communicate knowledge of their concentration area.

Admission Requirements

The Graduate School has rigorous standards for admission into doctoral programs, and those standards apply to the ISSTBE PhD program as well.

Applicants must meet Graduate School admission requirements along with additional program requirements.

Applicants must, as a minimum, have completed a bachelor's degree in Engineering or Medical Physics from an accredited program with a 3.25 cumulative grade point average to be considered for admission. The ideal applicant will have completed a master's degree in engineering (MS or MEng) at the time of application.

Applicants must submit the following:

a. Graduate Application (http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/)
b. Official transcripts of all college-level courses
c. Three letters of recommendation
d. A written statement by the applicant describing previous experience related to bioengineering
e. A statement as to how the PhD ISSTBE will allow them to fulfill their career goals as identified by their focus area of interest
f. Students whose native language is non-English or degree is from a non-US accredited institution are required to submit TOEFL scores (administered by the Educational Testing Service). A minimum TOEFL score of 79 or higher on the internet-based test is required. Alternatively, a minimum of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System will be accepted or a Duolingo score of 105.
g. Resume/CV required
h. Optional Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Program Requirements

To earn the Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies with a specialization in Translational Bioengineering (ISSTBE), students are required to successfully complete the following:

- 47 credit hours of course work beyond their bachelor’s degree (18 Core credit hours, nine (9) Concentration credit hours, 20 Specialization credit hours)
- Participate in the Bioengineering Seminar Series (75 percent attendance rate and one presentation/year as a Doctoral Candidate)
- Pass the Preliminary Examination
- Pass the Comprehensive Examination
- Successfully defend a dissertation
- Submit three or more peer-reviewed journal papers representing their original dissertation research

Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE 601</td>
<td>Bioengineering Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE 603</td>
<td>Bioengineering Research Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE 621</td>
<td>Bioinstrumentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE 654</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology for Engineers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE 695</td>
<td>Bioengineering Research Design &amp; Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME 565</td>
<td>Advanced Engineering Mathematics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Area - nine (9) credit hours in one of the following areas

Molecular and Tissue Engineering
Interdisciplinary Studies: Specialization in Translational Bioengineering (PhD)

BE 553  Nanoscale Bioengineering: Application and Methodology of Nanobiomaterials in Bioengineering
BE 552  Introduction to Tissue Engineering
BE 605  Tissue and Molecular Biology Techniques Laboratory
BE 650  Advanced Biomaterials
BIOC 611  Techniques in Biomolecular Interactions
BIOC 668  Molecular Biology
BIOC 680  Biomolecular Interactions

Bioimaging and Biocomputational Modeling
BE 542  Medical Image Computing
BE 540  Machine Learning in Medicine
BE 685  Modeling of Biological Phenomena
BE 640  Computational Methods for Medical Image Analysis
CSE 622  Simulation and Modeling of Discrete Systems
CSE 627  Digital Image Processing

Bioelectrical and Biomedical Devices
BE 524  LabVIEW for Bioengineers
BE 581  Advanced Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing for Bioengineers
BE 611  Cardiovascular Dynamics
BE 650  Advanced Biomaterials
BE 683  Artificial Organs
ECE 543  Fundamentals of Microfabrication and MEMS
ME 640  Optimum Design Methods
ME 647  Advanced Design Methods

Biomechanics and Rehabilitation
BE 630  Biomechanical Computer Modeling and Simulation of Human Movement
ME 651  Kinematics and Kinetics of Human Movement
BE 611  Cardiovascular Dynamics
BE 639  Injury Biomechanics
BE 658  Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology
ME 650  Biofluid Mechanics
ME 652  Advanced Human Biodynamics
ME 638  Computational Methods in Fluid Flow and Heat Transfer

Specialization Area Elective Coursework (see below) 20

Minimum Total Hours 47

Specialization Area Guided Electives

Courses in Specialization must be unique from those taken to fulfill the Concentration Requirement, and must follow either Track A, B or C below. Students must work with their advisor to establish a Plan of Study for Specialization Courses. All Specialization courses must be approved by the student's advisor prior to registration.

Track A
Traditional Bioengineering Research PhD: 18 credit hours from those listed below with a minimum of six (6) credit hours in engineering courses + Teaching Practicum (two (2) credit hours)

Clinical-Translation Research PhD: 12 credit hours from list below designated as BIOC, ASNB, PSYC, BIOL, MBIO, OBIO, OBIO or EXP; remaining six (6) credit hours from BE, CECS, ECE, IE, ME + Clinical Practicum (two (2) credit hours).

Track C
Advancing Bioengineering Technologies through Entrepreneurship PhD: 12 credit hours from list below designated as ENTR or IMBA; remaining six (6) credit hours from BE, CECS, ECE, IE, ME + Teaching Practicum (two (2) credit hours).

Code  Title  Hours
Guided Electives  20
ASNB 602  Fundamentals of Neuroscience  4
ASNB 614  Molecular Neuroscience  4
ASNB 617  Seminar on Developmental Neurobiology  3
ASNB 671  General and Oral Histology  5
BE 522  Biomedical Acoustics  3
BE 524  LabVIEW for Bioengineers  3
BE 540  Machine Learning in Medicine  3
BE 542  Medical Image Computing  3
BE 552  Introduction to Tissue Engineering  3
BE 553  Nanoscale Bioengineering: Application and Methodology of Nanobiomaterials in Bioengineering  3
BE 581  Advanced Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing for Bioengineers  3
BE 600  Advanced Topics in Bioengineering  1-6
BE 605  Tissue and Molecular Biology Techniques Laboratory  3
BE 611  Cardiovascular Dynamics  3
BE 630  Biomechanical Computer Modeling and Simulation of Human Movement  3
BE 639  Injury Biomechanics  3
BE 640  Computational Methods for Medical Image Analysis  3
BE 650  Advanced Biomaterials  3
BE 658  Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology  3
BE 683  Artificial Organs  3
BE 692  Bioengineering Clinical Rotation  2
BE 693  Independent Study in Bioengineering  1-6
BIOC 611  Techniques in Biomolecular Interactions  4
BIOC 645  Advanced Biochemistry I  4
BIOC 668  Molecular Biology  4
BIOC 680  Biomolecular Interactions  2
CSE 535  Introduction to Databases  3
CSE 545  Artificial Intelligence  3
CSE 619  Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms  3
CSE 622  Simulation and Modeling of Discrete Systems  3
CSE 627  Digital Image Processing  3
CSE 628  Computer Graphics  3
CSE 632  Data Mining  3
CSE 633  Computer Vision  3
CSE 635  Data Mining with Linear Models  3
CSE 660  Introduction to Bioinformatics  3
ECE 520  Digital Signal Processing  3
ECE 521  Digital Signal Processing Laboratory  1
ECE 523  Introduction to Biometrics  3
ECE 543  Fundamentals of Microfabrication and MEMS  3
ECE 544  Microfabrications/MEMS Laboratory  1
ECE 564  Fundamentals of Autonomous Robots  3
ECE 565  Fundamentals of Autonomous Robots Lab  1
ECE 614  Deep Learning  3
ECE 661  Sampled-Data Control Systems  3
ECE 662  Introduction to Optimum Control  3
ECE 676  Foundations of Polymer MEMS  3
ENTR 600  Introduction to Entrepreneurship  3
IE 563  Experimental Design in Engineering  3
IMBA 652  Venture Accelerator I  3
IMBA 654  Venture Accelerator II  3
IMBA 664  Venture Accelerator III  3
MBIO 601  Molecular Microbiology  2
MBIO 602  Immunology  3
MBIO 610  Methods and Analysis in the Biomedical Sciences  2
MBIO 618  Topics in Advanced Microbiology  1-3
ME 566  Advanced Engineering Mathematics II  3
ME 638  Computational Methods in Fluid Flow and Heat Transfer  3
ME 640  Optimum Design Methods  3
ME 647  Advanced Design Methods  3
ME 650  Biofluid Mechanics  3
ME 651  Kinematics and Kinetics of Human Movement  3
ME 652  Advanced Human Biodynamics  3
ME 671  Advanced Fluid Mechanics  3
ME 675  Advanced Topics in Mechanical Engineering  1-6
OBIO 611  Craniofacial Osteology  1-3
OBIO 612  Craniomaxillofacial Diagnostic Imaging  2-4
OBIO 617  Advanced Oral Pathology  1
OIID 604  Oral Microbiology  3

Dissertation Committee
By the end of the first semester, it is expected that the student has identified their Dissertation Chair. The student (under the guidance of his or her advisor) must select a Dissertation Committee of five or more persons, for approval by the Program Director. The committee must consist of the student’s advisor from the Department of Bioengineering (who will act as the Dissertation Committee Chair), at least two additional faculty members from within the Department of Bioengineering, at least one faculty member from a partnering School or College, and at least one additional faculty member from outside the Department of Bioengineering.

Preliminary Examination
To qualify for candidacy, students must pass the Preliminary Examination, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and pass the Comprehensive Examination. The Comprehensive Examination requires the student to prepare a written dissertation research proposal (following an external funding agency format) that is presented, defended and approved by the Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee approval constitutes passing both the written and oral portions of the Comprehensive Examination. The written portion is comprised of the student’s dissertation proposal document and the oral portion consists of the student’s presentation and defense of their dissertation proposal, including response to questions posed by their Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee will evaluate written and oral performance on the Comprehensive Examination separately as a Pass, Conditional Pass, or Fail. Students receiving a Conditional Pass must satisfactorily meet conditions set forth by the Dissertation Committee in order to Pass. Students failing either or both portions of the Comprehensive Examination will be permitted to repeat the respective portion(s) once.

Students must meet with their Dissertation Committee at least once per year during the remainder of their PhD program, culminating in the Dissertation Defense.