

# RUTGERS

Graduate School of  
Biomedical Sciences

*“Our goal is to produce biomedical scientists with the proficiency and potential to solve the complex biological problems they will encounter....”*

## **Newark Division**

at the  
New Jersey Medical School  
and  
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine



## **Master’s & Certificate Student Handbook**

*“....to develop scientists who will contribute new knowledge in the biomedical disciplines through creative research and scholarship”.*



<http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/>

**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

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## **GSBS FORMS**

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[http://njms.rutgers.edu/gpbs/current\\_students/forms.htm](http://njms.rutgers.edu/gpbs/current_students/forms.htm)

## FOREWORD

This handbook is informational only and does not constitute a contract between Rutgers and any student. It may be changed by Rutgers without prior notice to students. Any rules, regulations, policies, procedures or other representations made herein may be interpreted and applied by Rutgers to promote fairness and academic excellence, based on the circumstances of each individual situation.

This handbook represents a program of the current curricula, educational plans, offerings and requirements of the Rutgers-Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The School reserves the right to change any provisions, offerings, tuition, fees, or requirements at any time within the student's period of study at Rutgers. In addition, Rutgers may at any time eliminate, modify or change the location of any School, Institute, Center, Program, Department, course or academic activity.

This Student Handbook is to assist you in understanding the operations, procedures, and rules of the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Newark Division. Some pertinent University policies have been summarized to highlight their relevance to graduate students. Official policies are available online at <http://policies.rutgers.edu/view-policies/table-contents> (Rutgers), <http://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/additional-resources/rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-policies> (Rutgers RBHS), and [http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current\\_students/academic\\_info.htm](http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current_students/academic_info.htm) (Rutgers GSBS). Please notify the GSBS office of any omissions or errors in this publication so that they can be corrected (Ext. 2-4511).

In addition to the GSBS policies and requirements described in the Handbook, each department or program has its own specific requirements for completion of its program. Students should become familiar with those policies and consult the guidelines given by the department.

Information in this Handbook is posted on the GSBS website: <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs>. The web site also contains information on seminars, fellowships, job opportunities, policy changes, housing, and other subjects of interest to the GSBS community, and is linked to the library and the Internet. Students and faculty are urged to consult this resource. Specific information regarding fellowships and other issues will be sent to all students via e-mail. All students have been given an account on the ACS campus host.

The Graduate School at Newark offers programs leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Master of Science (25 credits with a thesis), Master of Biomedical Science (30 credits no thesis), and Certificates in Stem Cell Biology, Pharmacological Sciences, and BioDefense. Joint MD/PhD, DPT/PhD and DMD/PhD, MS/MBA (with the Rutgers School of Business), MS/MPH (with the Rutgers School of Public Health) programs also are available.

## ADMINISTRATION

### A. GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF:

Rutgers-GSBS Dean's Office			
Dean	Kathleen Scotto, PhD	972-5333	<a href="mailto:kathleen.scotto@rutgers.edu">kathleen.scotto@rutgers.edu</a>
Executive Asst. to the Dean	Susan Lomanto	972-5332	<a href="mailto:lomanto@gsbs.rutgers.edu">lomanto@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Administrative Coordinator I	Kimberly Pemberton	972-8384	<a href="mailto:pemberki@gsbs.rutgers.edu">pemberki@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Rutgers-GSBS Registrar's Office			
Manager of Enrollment & Academic Services/Registrar	Barbara Coleman-Lee	972-8385	<a href="mailto:leebea@gsbs.rutgers.edu">leebea@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Management Assistant	Donna Jackson	972-8385	<a href="mailto:jenkindj@gsbs.rutgers.edu">jenkindj@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Rutgers-GSBS Newark Division			
Senior Associate Dean	Andrew Thomas, PhD	972-4511	<a href="mailto:gsbsadm@gsbs.rutgers.edu">gsbsadm@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Associate Dean for Student Affairs	BJ Wagner, PhD	972-5335/ 972-4511	<a href="mailto:wagner@njms.rutgers.edu">wagner@njms.rutgers.edu</a>
Assistant Dean for Curriculum	Stephen Garrett, PhD	972-4511	<a href="mailto:garretst@njms.rutgers.edu">garretst@njms.rutgers.edu</a>
Program Supervisor	Nadine Stevens	972-4511	<a href="mailto:stevenna@gsbs.rutgers.edu">stevenna@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Admissions Coordinator	Mayra Marallano	972-4511	<a href="mailto:marallma@gsbs.rutgers.edu">marallma@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>
Secretary	Leslie Lucy	972-4511	<a href="mailto:lucyle@gsbs.rutgers.edu">lucyle@gsbs.rutgers.edu</a>

The Graduate School Student Affairs and Admissions Offices are located in Room C696 of the Medical Sciences Building (MSB), 185 S. Orange Ave. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Graduate School Dean's Office and Registrar's Office are located in the Stanley S. Bergen Building on Bergen Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, room 517. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### B. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE (973) 972-8385

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is responsible for the registration of all GSBS students on all campuses. The Graduate School Registrar's Office is responsible for preparation, maintenance and issuance of all official grades and records pertaining to GSBS students.

### C. OTHER RELEVANT PHONE NUMBERS

Department	Contact	Ext	Location
<b>Emergency numbers</b>	Police, Fire, Medical	4490	
<b>Inclement Weather/Emergency Hotline</b>			(888-698-6365)
Cashier's Office	Ms. S. Anderson	4379	MSB B644
Computer Center		7227	MSB-C631
Duplicating Services	Mr. C. Passarelli	4611	UH-A123
Financial Aid Office	Ms. N. Morisseau	4376	ADMC-1208
Library	Reference Desk	4358	LIB-M917
GSBS Registrar's Office:			
Manager of Enrollment & Academic Services	Ms. B. Coleman-Lee	8385	SSB 5 <sup>th</sup> Fl, Rm 517
Management Assistant	Ms. D. Jackson	8385	SSB 5 <sup>th</sup> Fl, Rm 517
<i>Visa information</i>	Ms. S. Sanford	6138	SSB GA72
Student Health Services	Ms. G. Lopez	8219	DOC-1600
United Healthcare Student Resources		1-800-505-4160	

\*\*\*Dial 2 before phone extensions on Newark campus

## **II. STUDENT SERVICES**

### **STUDENT/ HOUSESTAFF OMBUDSPERSONS**

#### **What is a student/housestaff ombudsperson at Rutgers?**

Under the Rutgers RBHS policy ([Student/Housestaff Ombudspersons Policy](#)), each Dean has appointed an ombudsperson as a designated, confidential resource for students and housestaff ("visitors") seeking information or solutions to problems. The unique nature of the ombudsperson is one of neutrality, impartiality and independence from the School's and University's established administrative structures. Thus, the ombudsperson is not a student/house officer advocate and does not represent the student's or house officer's interests. The ombudsperson is also not an agent of the institution, is not responsible for academic or disciplinary decisions concerning students or housestaff, and is independent of all administrators who are, such as deans or program directors. Instead, the ombudsperson aims for fairness, and impartially considers the interests of all parties. The ombudsperson does not make decisions, render judgments or administer sanctions. Instead, she or he identifies options, provides information, refers visitors to other resources if appropriate, facilitates communication between people, may mediate disputes or negotiate resolutions between parties, and recommends changes in policy or procedure to School/University administrators.

The assistance of an ombudsperson is informal and non-adversarial, separate from existing formal grievance and complaint procedures. Bringing complaints or problems to the ombudsperson does not constitute placing the University on formal notice. Visitors can always invoke the formal procedures. Sometimes the ombudsperson herself or himself may recommend this course of action and refer the visitor to the appropriate office. In any case, the ombudsperson will not participate in a formal process.

Each Rutgers School has also identified another individual as a [research ombudsperson](#) whose focus is on research disputes and problems. This person is available to assist faculty and staff as well as students and housestaff on issues related to research.

#### **Confidentiality:**

The ombudsperson strives to maintain confidentiality and respect privacy to the maximum extent permitted by law. The ombudsperson will not keep records with any personally identifiable information, and usually will not share any information received from visitors without the visitors' permission. However there are legal and ethical standards which may require the ombudsperson to disclose certain kinds of information, such as statutory violations, imminent threats of serious harm to an individual (the visitor or others), or to the University and its property, or about serious misconduct, harassment or the commission of a crime. The ombudsperson must also comply with court orders and valid subpoenas.

Relationship with the Dean, School/University administrators, faculty, other students/housestaff:

The ombudsperson maintains a great degree of independence within the School and University hierarchy. The ombudsperson is answerable only to the Dean, annually summarizing for the Dean the office's activities without revealing any personal or confidential information about cases. The ombudsperson also makes recommendations to the Dean for specific and systemic changes and improvements in School policy, procedure, environment, etc., based upon the pattern of problems and complaints brought forward by visitors. The ombudsperson has the full support of the University's Office of Academic Affairs, Office of AA/EEO and Office of Legal Management. The ombudsperson, in addition, is authorized to approach any individual - administrator, faculty member, other student or

house officer - in pursuit of information, resolutions to problems or complaints, or to make recommendations.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Ellen Townes-Anderson, PhD  
Professor, Department of Neurology and Neuroscience  
MSB H-582, Newark  
[andersel@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:andersel@njms.rutgers.edu)  
(973) 972-7392

**RUTGERS WEB SITE (<http://www.rutgers.edu>)**

**RUTGERS RBHS WEB SITE (<http://rbhs.rutgers.edu>)**

**GSBS NEWARK CAMPUS WEB SITE (<http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs>)**

All students are required to have an account with the Academic Computing Services (ACS) network and should check their Email daily. The Rutgers, Rutgers RBHS, and GSBS web sites contain information about policies, procedures, curriculum, courses, seminars, housing, fellowships, announcements, and the Student Handbook.

## **COMPUTER SERVICES**

The Academic Computing Center located in the Medical Sciences Building, Room C632, provides investigators and students with off-the-shelf desk-top applications as well as powerful development tools for genetic engineering, molecular modeling, research and publication graphics, and statistics. The Center is linked to similar centers at other units of Rutgers as well as to many departmental computing systems through a sophisticated high-speed network, providing a variety of resource-sharing services. This network is in turn connected to the Internet, allowing investigators at Rutgers to exchange information with users throughout the world.

The Computer Center is usually open from 8:30 am to 10:00 pm during the week and is accessible remotely at all times. It also is open from noon to 5:00 p.m. on weekends from September through May. Consult the Rutgers web site for up-to-date information on hours and services.

The NJMS Alumni Computer Laboratory is located in MSB-B624 and is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The Center has PC workstations with campus host access. It offers instruction and a variety of software applications.

## **GOLDEN DOME ATHLETIC CENTER AT RUTGERS**

Rutgers RBHS has secured a special arrangement with the Golden Dome Athletic Center at Rutgers/Newark for all students, employees, and faculty. For an annual fee of \$205, you will have full use of the facilities. In addition, you can also elect to pay a fee of \$135 for a half year. For a description of the Rutgers Athletic Center, see the website at <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/athletics/index.php>. Additionally, shuttle service to Rutgers is provided at no cost as part of the CHEN Shuttle program. You can learn more about the shuttle service by visiting the website at <http://www.nextbus.com/predictor/stopSelector.jsp?a=rutgers-newark>

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

All students enrolled in degree programs at GSBS are considered members in the Graduate Student Association. The group's objectives are to cultivate interest in the biomedical sciences and to encourage mutual assistance, social involvement, and other activities vital to a wholesome environment for graduate studies.

## **HOUSING**

Please visit the following websites <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs> and <http://housing.newark.rutgers.edu/other/high-school-jrsrs/high-school-jrsrs-page> for On-campus Housing.

## **LIBRARY (973) 972-4580**

The George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences currently houses more than 105,000 volumes of monographs, texts and periodicals, and receives more than 2,200 periodicals in the basic and clinical sciences. Individual study carrels are equipped for use of audiovisual aids and closed circuit television.

Resources available through the library's Media Center include slides, filmstrips, audio tape cartridges and videocassettes. The center also provides information from journals and technical reports on microfilm and microfiche.

The library offers many services, including computer-generated bibliographies in medicine, dentistry, the basic sciences, on-line journals, and OVID literature search. A modest fee is charged for this service to faculty, students, and staff of Rutgers.

Consult their web site (<http://libraries.rutgers.edu/smith>) for information on hours and services.

## **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

The Student Health Services Center is located in Suite 1600 of the DOC building. The center is open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The office is closed for lunch from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Students will be able to reach a physician 24 hours a day by calling 972-2111. There is a mandatory annual fee for this service.

Students are provided with advisory and screening services and a degree of out-patient care and preventive medicine. In the event of more serious illness, the service offers assistance in obtaining referral, consultation, hospitalization, or emergency treatment. The service is limited to students. It is not available to their spouses or other dependents.

Student Health & Wellness Center will provide out-patient mental health counseling to matriculated students enrolled in Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) programs on the Newark Campus. These services may be accessed during working hours by the student self-referring to Room 1750 of the Doctors Office Center or by calling 973-972-8219 during working hours or off-hours when physicians from the Department of Family Medicine will be on-call.



### **III. STUDENT AFFAIRS**

#### **NON-MATRICULATED (NON-DEGREE) STATUS:**

Students with baccalaureate degrees may apply for non-matriculated status in order to enroll in courses at the Graduate School. Permission to take courses is contingent upon fulfillment of the specific course prerequisites and availability of facilities to accommodate the applicant. Preference is given to teachers or professional workers in neighboring industries and hospitals who are seeking to further their knowledge of biomedical sciences or striving to advance their careers through continuing education. Foreign applicants are not eligible for non-matriculated status.

#### **Application for Admission as a Non-degree Student**

Before admission to non-matriculated status is considered, the Graduate School office must have on file:

- (1) A complete application and application fee.
- (2) Official transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate schools attended.
- (3) Recommendations from two individuals, preferably academic instructors with knowledge of the applicant's academic performance in science-related fields.

**Students accepted to the School for non-matriculated status may take courses while registered as non-matriculated students, but, as with degree candidates, are required to maintain a 'B' average in their coursework. No more than 15 credits can be taken as a non-matriculated student. If accepted into a GSBS degree program, upon approval by the Associate Dean, these credits will count towards the degree.**

#### **Policy for entering a degree program from non-matriculated status**

Non-matriculated students may apply to a degree program if they have achieved a Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher in at least 6 credits of course work and have competitive Graduate Record Examination scores. Students with a Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher in 9 credits of course work, including grades of 'B' or better in 6 credits of core curriculum courses, may request exemptions from the Graduate Record Examination admissions requirement. Students applying to the PhD program may not be exempted from the Graduate Record Examination requirement.

#### **REGISTRATION**

Unless granted a formal leave of absence, students enrolled in degree programs are required to register every semester until the degree is granted. Registration for any semester is not complete until tuition and all required fees have been paid and all required immunizations and health insurance have been obtained.

Registration will not be permitted beyond the first week of courses. Credit will not be given for courses in which the student was not registered. The GSBS assesses a \$50 late registration fee.

#### **Time Status for Masters Students and Certificate Students:**

Full Time status = 8 credits or more per semester  
Half Time = 4-7 credits per semester  
Less Than Half Time = 1-3 credits or less

## TUITION AND FEES POLICY/ STUDENT RESIDENCE AND IN-STATE TUITION

Eligibility for in-state tuition rates is predicated upon the student having a New Jersey domicile. Residence established solely for the purpose of attending Rutgers **does not** constitute domicile for tuition purposes. Students residing in New Jersey for a period of twelve (12) months before first enrolling at Rutgers are presumed to be domiciled in this State for tuition purposes. Students residing in New Jersey for a period less than twelve (12) months before first enrolling at Rutgers are presumed **not** to be domiciled in New Jersey unless evidence of establishment of domicile in New Jersey is provided. For those students residing in New Jersey less than twelve months before first enrolling, please refer to the Rutgers policy on Student Residence and In-State Tuition to determine what documents and information must be submitted with the application for Reclassification as a New Jersey Resident. The application and pertinent supporting documentation must be submitted to the GSBS Registrar's Office for review and approval.

The entire policy entitled "Student Residency for Tuition Purposes" can be reviewed on the Rutgers website at <http://policies.rutgers.edu/view-policies/academic-%E2%80%93-section-10>.

Tuition and fees for each semester are billed at the beginning of the semester. The University Business Office will assess a **late fee of \$50/month** for payment not received within 30 days of the due date. Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Matriculated Students may arrange with the Cashier's Office to follow an installment payment plan:

1. Payment of all fees plus one-half of the tuition before or on the due date.
2. Payment of one-quarter of the tuition 30 days after the due date and one-quarter 60 days after the due date.

The fee for the installment plan is \$20.00. Any student who elects to use the installment plan and finds it impossible to meet this obligation must contact the Financial Aid Office immediately to make alternative arrangements. No degree will be awarded to any student until all financial obligations to the University have been satisfied. Students adding a course that begins mid-semester must pay the full tuition prior to the start of the course.

Any student who has been awarded financial aid may defer payment of tuition and fees until receipt of such aid. A deferment form must be completed in the Financial Aid Office. Tuition and fees become due and payable immediately when financial aid (including loans from any source, scholarships, or other subvention) is received.

## ADD OR DROP COURSES

Students may add or withdraw from a course with approval of the instructor (where necessary) and the program advisor. Add/Drop forms may be obtained on the GSBS website: <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs> (Current Students > Forms)

Students submitting a completed Add/Drop form within 10 academic days of the start of the course will receive a full tuition refund and the course will not appear on their official transcript. Students withdrawing from a course between 11 and 15 academic days after the course begins will receive an 80% tuition refund. No tuition will be refunded beyond 15 academic days after the course has begun. Withdrawals beyond 10 academic days after the course begins will be noted as "W" on the official transcript. Withdrawals will NOT be granted during the final third of a course.

A student wishing to add a course **after online registration has closed** should complete the Add/Drop

form and have appropriate approval of the course instructor (if needed) and advisor prior to the start of the course. Registration will not be permitted beyond the first week of a course. Credit will not be given for courses in which the student was not registered.

## **CROSS REGISTRATION**

GSBS participates in a cross-registration program with Rutgers University (Newark Campus) and New Jersey Institute of Technology through the "CHEN" (Council of Higher Education of Newark) program. Grades for courses taken through the CHEN program are included in the GSBS transcript and grade point average. The following procedures are to be followed:

1. Obtain a CHEN form from the GSBS Office and permission from your departmental Graduate Program Director to take the course.
2. Obtain the approval of the GSBS Associate Dean on the CHEN form.
3. Bring the form to the CHEN-affiliated school and obtain approval from the course instructor or department Chairperson to enter the course(s).
4. Bring the approved CHEN forms to the Host Registrar, who will register you at the affiliated school. The Host Registrar will forward copies of the form and grades to the Rutgers Registrar, who will transmit them to the GSBS Office.

## **TRANSFER CREDITS**

Credits for graduate courses taken at colleges or universities in the United States may be transferred after the first semester for students in good academic standing and upon approval of the program advisor and the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean. Only courses in which the student earned at least a B grade or equivalent are transferable. The number of credits shall not exceed the number of credits given for an equivalent course at GSBS. If a course is of lesser scope or depth than a similar course at GSBS, departments may request transfer of less than the total number of credits originally awarded.

The application for transfer credit is available on-line at <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs> (Current Students > Forms).

Credits for graduate courses taken at foreign universities may be considered with consultation of the program advisor and the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean.

A maximum of 6 credits may be transferred toward the MS or MBS degrees. We do not accept transfer credits towards the Certificate Program.

Please note: Transfer credits will have no impact on your tuition. All students are responsible for payment of at least 30 credits of tuition for the MS and MBS degrees, even if all credits are not completed in residence.

Dual degree students must adhere to the maximum number of transfer credits as defined by their program. This may exceed the maximum number of transfer credits allowed by a program primary to GSBS.

## **GRADES**

Grades are assigned according to the following scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Quality</u>
A	4.0	Excellent
B+	3.5	Very Good
B	3.0	Good
C+	2.5	Marginal
C	2.0	Poor
F	0.0	Failure

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I	Incomplete
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
W	Official Withdrawal

(A grade of "D" issued prior to the Fall 2011 Academic Year will contribute 1.0 quality point/credit).

To be considered in good academic standing, students must maintain at least a 3.00 grade point average and an average grade of "B" or better in the core courses, as designated by their program, as a requirement for graduation. A 3.00 GPA is required for graduation.

### **CALCULATING GPA**

The method of determining the cumulative Grade Point Average is as follows: Each course's semester credit hours with a A grade is multiplied by 4.0 quality points; B+ grade by 3.5 quality points; B grade by 3.0 quality points; etc. The total number of quality points divided by total of semester hour credits completed constitutes the GPA.

Quality Points Example: A student who takes a 3 credit course and earns a grade of A receives a total of 12 quality points for that course (grade of A is valued at 4 points; 4 quality points x 3 credits = total of 12 quality points). If the student earned a grade of B in the same 3 credit course the total quality points would have been 9 (grade of B valued at 3 quality points x 3 credits).

GPA Calculation Example: A student who has completed a total of 30 credits and who has a total of 116.50 points has a GPA of 3.88 which is calculated by dividing 116.50 by 30.

Transfer credits and credits for courses graded Satisfactory or Pass, while included in earned credits, are not included in the GPA hours or the GPA calculation as they do not have any point value.

Repetition of any course results in both the original grade and the new grade appearing on the transcript; however, the quality points from the earlier grade are not calculated into the student's cumulative GPA.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

A grade of "I" is normally given only when circumstances beyond the control of the student prevent completion of course requirements. Students receiving a grade of "I" are responsible for finding out from the instructor the exact work required to remove the "Incomplete" grade. Incomplete grades must be converted to a letter grade no later than the end of the next semester in which the course is offered, unless otherwise approved in advance by the Campus GSBS Senior Associate Dean. If a grade is not received during this time frame, the "I" will be converted to an "F".

### **REPEATED COURSES**

Students repeating a course that they failed or from which they withdrew must re-register for the course and are subject to paying tuition for that course. Master's students are only allowed to repeat two courses during their matriculation, whereas Certificate students are allowed to repeat only one course. Courses repeated while in a non-matriculated status will count towards the course repetition regulation for those students who progress to matriculated student status.

If a course is repeated, both grades will remain on the transcript, but only the repeated grade will be used for calculation of the GPA.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

All students of the University are entitled to transcripts of their academic record. Requests for official transcripts must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by written application. There is a processing fee, set by the Registrar's Office, for each transcript. Unofficial transcripts are available via the myportal.rutgers.edu Portal via the Banner Self Service channel at: <http://myportal.rutgers.edu>. **Only currently enrolled students will be allowed to enter the secure area.**

## **GSBS GRADUATE PROGRAM TRANSFERS**

Credits for graduate courses taken at colleges or universities in the United States may be transferred after the first semester for students in good academic standing and upon approval of the Program Advisor and the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean. Only courses in which the student earned at least a B grade or equivalent are transferable. The number of credits shall not exceed the number of credits given for an equivalent course at GSBS. If a course is of lesser scope or depth than a similar course at GSBS, the Program Advisor may request transfer of less than the total credits originally awarded. A maximum of 6 credits may be transferred toward the MS and MBS degrees. Transfer credits are not accepted in the Certificate Programs. **In all cases, transfer credits will have no impact on your tuition.** All students are responsible for payment of at least 30 credits of tuition for the MS and MBS degrees, even if all credits are not completed in residence. Credits for graduate courses taken at foreign universities may be considered with consultation of the Program Advisor and the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean.

**Students in the Masters Program who matriculate to most Professional Schools:** A student in the Masters program who matriculates into professional school prior to completing the degree requirements may request a leave of absence for a maximum of one year to complete the requirements of the program if they wish to obtain the Masters degree. To earn graduate school credit for a medical or dental school course the student must complete an application for transfer credit and submit the application, an official transcript and course description(s) to the Campus GSBS Senior Associate Dean for approval. Students may apply credits for no more than two basic science medical school courses toward the Masters degree. Students not completing the GSBS Masters degree requirements within one year may be required to re-apply to the Graduate School and undergo a new admissions process.

**Students in the Master's Program who matriculate to the PhD Program:** Approval of transfer of credits from GSBS Master's Program to a GSBS PhD program will be done on an individual basis at the discretion of the Program Director/Track Director and the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean. All students must maintain satisfactory academic progress status as described in the GSBS Transfer Credit policy.

**Students in the Certificate Program who matriculate to the Master's Program:** Students are eligible to apply all credits from a Certificate to a Master's degree program as long as all of the transfer courses were taken within the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. There is no minimum grade requirement when applying courses from the Certificate to Master's programs; however, the certificate must have been completed within the previous two years. The application of credits from a GSBS Certificate program to a GSBS Master's program must be by approved by the program director and GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE / REINSTATEMENT**

Graduate students in good academic standing who cannot maintain continuous registration may apply for a leave of absence, in writing, to the GSBS Associate Dean. A GSBS student may be granted a leave of absence for a period not to exceed one year. Please note that different rules apply for International students in accordance with INS regulations.

The Associate Dean must receive written notification of the student's intent to return one month prior to the expiration of the leave. If the leave was for medical reasons, the student must document medical clearance to return.

Foreign students holding a student visa who wish to temporarily leave the United States must obtain permission from the GSBS Associate Dean's Office 30 days prior to their travel. Students granted permission must then apply for a new I20 or IAP-66 in order to return to the U.S. Any foreign student who leaves the United States without the consent of the GSBS Associate Dean's Office is subject to disciplinary action.

Students not returning from leave of absence within the approved date may be required to re-apply to the Graduate School and undergo a new admissions process.

## FINANCIAL AID

Rutgers RBHS has a Financial Aid Office ([http://rbhs.rutgers.edu/studentfinancialaid/index\\_new\\_brow.htm](http://rbhs.rutgers.edu/studentfinancialaid/index_new_brow.htm)) to assist students with their applications for Financial Aid. Matriculated students enrolled in the GSBS in a degree or certificate program who are United States citizens or Permanent Residents are eligible to apply for financial assistance. All awards are based on need. Need is defined as the difference between the total cost of attending Rutgers (tuition, fees, books, supplies, instruments, rent, utilities, food, transportation and personal expenses) and the ability of the family to contribute toward those educational costs as determined by a federally-approved system of need analysis (GAPSFAS).

Financial aid is usually provided by or through federal and state agencies, foundations, corporations, and the University itself. Grants are regarded as "gift" assistance and need not be repaid, although they may carry certain provisions to which one must adhere. Loans can be repaid over an extended period after the student graduates from the school. Where aid is offered in the form of a job, the student is paid an hourly rate for work actually performed.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

1. All international students must hold valid passports issued by their country of origin.
2. International students must provide the Graduate School office with the following documents upon registration:
  - a. Photocopy of their Passport showing passport number, expiration date, photograph and the page with the stamped visa.
  - b. I-94 card number and expiration date (admission card that is stapled into the passport).
3. A written request, utilizing the GSBS internal F-1 Travel Request Form must be made to the Graduate School 30 days in advance (unless it is an absolute emergency) for a new I-20 or IAP-66 form in the event a student wishes to temporarily leave the United States. **Under no circumstances should the student leave the country without notifying the Graduate School office.**
4. International students transferring from another institution must provide the following documents to the Graduate School Office prior to enrollment:

- a. Photocopy of their passport showing passport number, expiration date, photograph and the page with the stamped visa.
  - b. Original I-94 card number and expiration date (admission card that is stapled into the passport).
  - c. Original IAP-66 or I-20 form issued from the previous school with U.S. Immigration approval.
  - d. F-1 School Transfer Form.
  - e. Rutgers GSBS Internal I-20 Application Form.
5. Students must inform the Graduate School of any change in status, i.e., receiving permanent residency status, immediately.
  6. Students must notify the Graduate School Office 60 days in advance of their I-20 or IAP-66 expiration so that an extension may be granted.
    - Extensions are eligible only if delays are caused by compelling academic or medical reasons which are in compliance with F-1 and J-1 regulations
    - Delays due to academic probation or suspension are not acceptable
    - Program extensions cannot be filed once end date on current I-20 is met
  7. Any student who does not have proper documentation or does not comply with U.S. Immigration and Naturalization regulations is subject to dismissal from the University.
  8. Optional Practical Training (OPT)
    - Students must be in full-time F-1 status for one academic year before requested start date of OPT
    - Student is eligible for one year of full-time OPT per degree level
    - Student must apply to The Office of International Student Services (OISS) prior to program completion date
    - The OPT period must not exceed 14 months beyond the student's program completion date
  9. Reportable events must be timely submitted to OISS. These include the student's:
    - Enrollment status – within 30 days after deadline for registering for classes
    - Current U.S. address – within 30 days after deadline for registering for classes
    - Start date of next term – within 30 days after deadline for registering for classes
    - Changes in student's or dependent's legal name – within 21 days
    - Changes in student's or dependent's U.S. address – within 21 days
    - Authorization by DSO to drop below full-time study – within 21 days
    - Failure to maintain Status or complete program – within 21 days
    - Academic or disciplinary action taken due to criminal conviction – within 21 days
    - Dependent's early U.S. departure – within 21 days
    - Dependent's status age-out – upon event
    - Termination date and reason for termination
    - Graduation – within 21 days
    - Certification of authorized employment – upon event
    - Other data generated by standard procedures such as: program extensions; school transfers; changes in level of study; change in program funding; employment authorizations; and, reinstatement

## 10. Maintaining F-1 Student Status

To maintain legal F-1 student status, students:

- Must be making normal progress towards completion of degree
- Must not drop below full-time course of study without prior DSO authorization
- May only reduce course load one time during entire degree program due to compelling academic or medical reasons
- Must enroll for at least half-time of the school's official full-time standard when reduction of course load is pre-approved because of academic difficulty. **Note:** Documentation from Academic Advisor is required.
- Must have documentation for reduced course load because of medical conditions:
  - Students must be certified by a licensed medical professional
  - Maximum limit of 12 months per program level

## HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/> - BCIS

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/> - DHS

<http://state.gov> - DOS (travel, passport renewals, embassies & consulates)

<http://www.ssa.gov/> - Social Security Administration

<http://www.irs.gov/> - Internal Revenue Service

## CHANGE OF NAME

It is the responsibility of the student to complete a change of name affidavit form and submit it with supporting documentation to the Graduate School Registrar's Office when appropriate. The form can be found at <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs> (Current Students > Forms)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is the responsibility of the student to complete a change of address form and submit it to the Graduate School Student Affairs Office when appropriate. The form can be found at <http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs> (Current Students > Forms)

## IV. SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

A complete listing of policies is available on the Rutgers website at <http://policies.rutgers.edu/view-policies/table-contents>, or the Rutgers RBHS website at <http://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/additional-resources/rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-policies> or the GSBS Newark website at [http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current\\_students/academic\\_info.htm](http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current_students/academic_info.htm). The following summarizes selected policies pertinent to graduate students.

## STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

All students are expected to achieve satisfactory levels of academic and research proficiency as stipulated by the individual GSBS programs for theory and laboratory practice. In addition, federal regulations require the School establish Satisfactory Academic Progress standards for students who are awarded federal financial aid funds. The following standards apply to all matriculated students, whether they are financial aid recipients or not. Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress during any semester may be placed on Financial Aid warning, Financial Aid probation and/or academic plan, suspension or may be dismissed, in accordance with the policies of the School. The standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress measure a student's performance in three areas: completion rate, cumulative grade point average (GPS) and maximum time frame. The student's academic progress shall be evaluated each semester by the Program's Academic advisors (Associate



Dean for Student Affairs and Assistant Dean of Curriculum). Students admitted for the Fall semester will be evaluated at the end of each Spring semester, and students admitted for the Spring semester will be evaluated at the end of each Fall semester and in the Spring following their initial Fall semester enrollment. Academic Progress will be evaluated for both part-time and full-time students.

The program shall clearly inform students of the criteria for satisfactory academic performance.

Minimum academic requirements for good academic standing, established by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS), are as follows:

### 1. Grade Point Average (GPA)

Satisfactory Academic Progress will require that students who have attempted 12 or less credits have earned a GPA of at least 2.50; those who have attempted 13 or more credits must have earned a GPA of at least 3.00. In addition, students must earn an average grade of “B” (3.00/4.00) in the core courses(s) of their program to be in good academic standing and graduate.

For courses graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale, an "S" grade (Satisfactory) will be awarded in those instances where the student has performed class work necessary to pass the course. S/U grades do not contribute to the GPA.

For students receiving an “Incomplete” grade, the required work must be completed no later than the end of the next semester in which the course is offered, unless otherwise approved in advance by the Campus GSBS Senior Associate Dean. If a grade is not received during this time frame, the “I” will be converted to an “F”.

### 2. Maximum Time Allowance and Completion Rate

Students must complete their degree within a maximum number of years for that degree. Each semester maximum time allowance will be evaluated to determine whether each student can complete the program without exceeding the maximum years in which courses are attempted. For students not in full time status the maximum time from matriculation to graduation may be prorated at a level up to 1.5 times the full-time maximum. Leaves of absence and time devoted to study at another institution for a dual degree or at external scholarly programs are not included in these time allowances. The program advisors shall evaluate whether each student has made adequate progress toward his/her degree or certificate according to the following schedule.

	Maximum time from matriculation to graduation
Certificate – 18 credits	2 years
MBS – 30 credits	4 years
MS – 30 credits	4 years

As part of the Satisfactory Academic Progress assessment, each student’s completion rate will be evaluated by comparing the number of attempted credit hours with the credit hours earned. In order to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress, a student must earn a minimum percentage of credits attempted in accordance with the chart below.

Degree Program	Measurement Interval	Percentage of Credit Hours That Must be Passed
Certificate	Semesters 1, 2, 3	50%
	Semesters 4, 5	75%
MBS/MS	Years 1, 2	50%
	Years 3, 4	75%

When assessing SAP for students who were on an approved Leave of Absence during the evaluation period, the completion rate will be prorated. Coursework and grades taken prior to a student's current level must be approved for application to the current level and will be counted for SAP based on that determination.

### **3. Notification of Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students who fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress will receive written notification from the Office of the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean, with copies to the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid, program advisor and GSBS Registrar's Office. The notification shall indicate the nature of the deficiency, any methods that may be available for correcting the deficiency and any consequences that have resulted or may result, such as Financial Aid warning, Financial Aid probation, and/or academic plan, suspension or dismissal. A student may re-establish Satisfactory Academic Progress by demonstrating to the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean achievement of the completion rate and GPA required.

### **4. Financial Aid Warning**

Students who are deemed not to be making Satisfactory Academic Progress will be placed on "financial aid warning status" for a period of one semester, during which the student will continue to be financial aid eligible. This status is assigned to a student automatically once determined that the student is not progressing satisfactorily and is effective for the next semester. No appeal is necessary and the student will be reviewed again at the end of the next semester. If the student is not progressing satisfactorily, they may appeal or be placed on Financial Aid Probation.

### **5. Appeal for Reinstatement of Financial Aid Eligibility**

Students who wish to appeal for reinstatement of Financial Aid eligibility should submit a written appeal in accordance with the GSBS academic appeal process. A final determination will be provided in writing. Exceptional circumstances warranting an appeal and possible exception include death of a relative and injury or illness of the student.

### **6. Financial Aid Probation**

Financial Aid probation is awarded to a student if the Appeal has been approved. While on Financial Aid probation for one semester, the student is eligible to receive financial aid.

### **7. Academic Plan**

An Academic Plan is created for a student who will not be able to complete the necessary benchmarks to regain SAP status within the period of time on Financial Aid probation of one semester. The Academic Plan includes benchmarks that must be completed successfully for each successive semester in order to continue on the plan and continue to be eligible for Financial Aid.

### **8. Dismissal or Withdrawal**

Students who are dismissed or withdrawn from the School are not making Satisfactory Academic Progress and are not eligible to receive financial aid

### **9. Other Institutions**

Students enrolled in GSBS courses as students in Joint or Dual Degree Programs with other institutions are subject to the standards of academic progress, counting only semesters when the student's enrollment is administered by GSBS. If the terms of the Joint Program include stricter requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress, the stricter requirements will be enforced.

## **10. Documentation**

Documentation of decisions concerning Financial Aid warning, Financial Aid probation and/or academic plan, dismissal, appeal, or re-establishment of Satisfactory Academic Progress shall be transmitted to the affected student and maintained in the GSBS student academic files on record in the GSBS Registrar's Office in accordance with Rutgers record retention requirements.

## **11. Dissemination**

Documentation of decisions concerning probation, dismissal, appeal, or re-establishment of Satisfactory Academic Progress shall be transmitted to the affected student and maintained in the GSBS student academic file on record in the GSBS Registrar's Office.

## **12. Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress Established upon Matriculation**

Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress that are distributed to a student upon matriculation are applicable for the duration of the student's continuous matriculation in the same program, unless any changes in standards are made.

## **ACADEMIC APPEALS PROCESS**

Determination of satisfactory academic performance and the successful fulfillment of academic requirements for all Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences ("GSBS") students are the responsibilities of the GSBS Program Directors, and will proceed in accordance with the academic policies and guidelines of the GSBS and the specific graduate tracks.

The Program Directors will review student performance and progress at each phase of a specific program, and will determine if a student can or should be permitted to continue. If the Program Director initiates an academic action against a student, he/she will communicate this information to the Senior Associate Dean and the affected student. Evaluation of a student's progress by the Program Director shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the student's grade point average, course work, and where applicable, thesis research and written dissertation.

If a Program Director initiates any academic action and/or has determined that a student cannot continue in the specific graduate program because of academic insufficiency, the student has the right to appeal the academic action to the GSBS' Student Affairs Committee ("SAC"), an "ad hoc" committee that shall be composed of at least other three (3) faculty at the GSBS. The SAC will convene an academic appeals hearing at which both the Program Director and the student shall appear and give testimony, and provide the SAC with documentation in support of their position. At the close of the academic hearing, the SAC shall deliberate privately and decide whether to affirm, reject or modify the Program Director's academic action. The SAC shall convey its recommendation to the GSBS Dean or the Dean's designee, the Track Director and the affected student. If the student does not agree with the SAC's decision, the student has a right to appeal this decision to the Dean or the Dean's designee, whose decision is final and non-appealable.

## **IV. PROCEDURE**

1. A student who wishes to appeal an academic action must submit a written request to the GSBS

Campus Senior Associate Dean within three (3) business days of his/her notification of the academic action from the Program Director. Otherwise, the student has waived his/her right to appeal the academic action, and this shall become the final academic decision.

2. When a student requests an academic appeals hearing pursuant to this policy, he/she will ordinarily be permitted to continue in the program pending the outcome of the appeal(s) process.

3. Upon notification of a student's request for an academic appeals hearing, the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean shall convene the GSBS Campus Student Affairs Committee ("SAC") and notify the GSBS Dean.

4. Once the members of the SAC are selected, a Chairperson shall be designated. The Chairperson or his/her designee shall request all pertinent documentation from the Campus Senior Associate Dean.

5. The Chairperson of the SAC will schedule an appeals hearing of the SAC within ten (10) business days of his/her receipt of the documentation from the Campus Senior Associate Dean, and shall notify the student, the Program Director and any other individual(s) the Chairperson determines may have information relevant to the appeal. Notification shall include, at a minimum, the date, place and time of the meeting. The SAC will review the testimony and the documentation provided to them in advance, as well as any documentation received at the hearing.. The SAC will make a written recommendation to the Dean within five (5) business days of the appeals hearing. The Program Director and the student will be provided with a copy of this recommendation at the same time as the Dean.

5. The student has the right to appeal the SAC's recommendation to the GSBS Dean or the Dean's designee within three (3) business days of his/her receipt of the SAC recommendation. Otherwise, the student has waived his/her right to appeal to the Dean or the Dean's designee.

6. The Dean will render a final, non-appealable academic decision within a reasonable period of time, but in no event later than forty-five (45) days after the last date of the appeals hearing. The Dean will notify the student, the Campus Senior Associate Dean, the Chairperson of the SAC and the Program Director of this decision. A copy of the decision will be sent to the student by both regular and certified mail, return receipt requested.

#### Student Preparation for the Appeal Meeting:

1. The student who has requested an appeal of an academic action is encouraged to seek the support and consultation of his/her advisor and/or the GSBS Ombudsperson throughout the academic appeals process. The student may also consult with an attorney of his/her choice, but the student may not be represented at the appeals hearing by legal counsel. Legal counsel may be present outside the hearing room to consult with the student during or after the appeals hearing. The student may be accompanied to the appeals hearing by an advocate of his/her choosing who may address the SAC at the close of the testimony, but this advocate may not be an attorney by profession.

2. The student must provide to the Campus Senior Associate Dean a detailed statement of the facts and circumstances supporting the appeal and provide a list of persons with information relevant to the appeal. These documents will be received before the academic appeals hearing is scheduled, although for good cause the student will be permitted to supplement these materials at any time up until a final, non-appealable decision is rendered.

3. The Student Affairs Committee will review the submitted information and may request additional materials from the student, the Program Director, or any other individual(s) to clarify issues pertinent to the matter.

## The Appeals Hearing:

1. Within ten (10) business days of his/her receipt of a complete set of appeals materials, the Chairperson will schedule an appeals hearing that will include the SAC members, as well as the student, the Program Director and any other individual(s) who the Chairperson determines may have information relevant to the appeal.
2. The SAC Hearing will not be taped or transcribed, although the SAC may, at its discretion, designate an employee of the GSBS as a note-taker during the testimonial phase of the hearing.
3. At the appeals hearing, the Program Director and the student will be asked to present background information and supporting documentation to the SAC..
4. The Campus Senior Associate Dean or his/her designee and any other persons invited by the Chairperson to present supporting materials or discuss issues relevant to the appeal may also be present at the appeals hearing.
5. After the SAC has heard from all essential or requested individuals, the appeals hearing will be adjourned and the SAC will deliberate on the appeal in a closed session attended only by its members. The SAC will convey its recommendation to the student in writing with written copies to the GSBS Campus Senior Associate Dean and the GSBS Dean within five (5) business days.
6. Within three (3) business days of his/her receipt of the SAC's decision, the student may submit a written appeal to the GSBS Dean. The GSBS Dean may, at his or her discretion, seek information and consult with any other party(ies), including the student, members of the program's academic standing committee, members of the SAC and the Senior Associate Dean, and shall render, within a reasonable period of time but in no event later than forty-five (45) days after the last day of the appeals hearing, a final and non-appealable written decision and shall provide written copies of the decision to the student by regular and certified mail, Return Receipt Requested, and to the SAC Chairperson and the Campus Senior Associate Dean.

## **ACADEMIC STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students are active participants in the academic process and are required to support the integrity of that process. Cheating, plagiarism, forgery or the use of external resources to circumvent the student's academic responsibilities shall be considered a violation of the regulations of the University. A formal charge against a student substantiated by a duly scheduled University hearing is punishable by dismissal or suspension.

## **ESSENTIAL FUNCTION/TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR GSBS**

Technical Standards refer to non-academic requirements that are essential for meeting the academic requirements of the program. Within any area of specialization, students must demonstrate competence in those intellectual and physical tasks that together represent the fundamentals of biomedical research in their chosen discipline. Enrollment is contingent on the result of certain medical laboratory test (e.g., TB) and fulfillment of immunization requirements. For details see the Rutgers RBHS policy on Student Essential Functions, see the RBHS website <http://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/additional-resources/rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-policies>.

The MS degree program at the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Newark campus requires a laboratory-based research dissertation. Granting of these degrees implies that the recipient has demonstrated a base of knowledge in the field and the ability to independently apply that knowledge to solve a particular problem by forming hypotheses, designing and conducting experiments, interpreting the experimental results, and communicating the results and their interpretation to the scientific community.

Thus, a candidate for the MS, or MBS degree must possess abilities and skills that allow for observation, intellectual and conceptual reasoning, motor coordination, and communication. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many situations in that a candidate's judgment will be based on someone else's power of selection and observation.

A student whose behavior or performance raises questions concerning his or her ability to fulfill the essential functions may be required to obtain evaluation and/or testing by a health care provider designated by the School, and to provide the results to the Campus Student Health Service for the purpose of determining whether the student is fit to pursue the educational program. If the student is deemed fit to pursue the program, the School reserves the right to require actions recommended by the health care provider, including further testing, counseling, monitoring, leave of absence, etc.

### **Observation**

The candidate must be able to acquire knowledge by direct observation of demonstrations, experiments, and experiences within the laboratory and instructional setting. Examples are physiological or pharmacological responses in animals, studies of microbiological cultures and organisms, identification of normal and abnormal cells or tissues through a microscope, and interpretation of results obtained on various instrumentation.

### **Intellectual/Conceptual Abilities**

The candidate must be able to measure, calculate, analyze, reason, integrate and synthesize information to solve problems.

### **Motor Skills**

The candidate must possess motor skills necessary to perform procedures required for experimentation within the chosen discipline. These skills may include, but are not limited to, surgery in animals, handling of animals, transfer of microorganisms to various mediums, preparing chemical and often toxic materials and solutions, preparation of anatomical specimens for microscopic examination, manipulating electronic and other complex equipment. Such actions require coordination of muscular movements and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

### **Communication**

The candidate must be able to communicate and discuss his or her experimental hypotheses and results to the scientific community, both in scientific journals or directly at scientific meetings, seminars, or in the laboratory to the research team.

### **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

The candidate must possess the emotional and mental health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of responsibilities inherent in managing a scientific laboratory, the ability to function under the stress inherent in biomedical research, and the ability to understand and comply with ethical standards for the conduct of research.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities must provide documentation for necessary accommodations.

## **FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS and PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law to protect the confidentiality of student records. Under the provisions of FERPA, the University is permitted to provide information of a "directory" nature (e.g., name, e-mail address, etc.) without written consent, unless the student specifically requests that such information not be disclosed.

If you do not wish your directory information to be released you must advise the GSBS Manager of Enrollment and Academic Services in writing by September 15, 2006. Please consider your decision carefully before requesting directory information exclusion as you may not receive information from external agencies and scientific societies on scholarship opportunities, membership and subscription

offers, etc., unless you specifically send your address information to those agencies. The address of the GSBS Registrar's Office is as follows:

Ms. Barbara Coleman-Lee  
Manager of Enrollment and Academic Services  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Stanley S. Bergen Building  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rm 517

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE GRADUTE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**Code of Professional Conduct:** All students have a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in their academic and professional endeavors. They are expected to observe generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, to acknowledge the published work of others in an appropriate manner, and to refrain from receiving or giving aid during examinations or other work requiring independent effort. When submitting written material, students take full responsibility for the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments and imply that both the ideas and words used are their own. All students are expected to respect the property of faculty and other students, and not use research equipment or laboratory supplies of others without permission.

The following general examples are designed to clarify what is not permissible. The list is not all-inclusive, but intends to establish that no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated by the school, its faculty, or its students.

- \* Providing false information in any academic document or academic exercise
- \* Forging, plagiarizing, or altering any academic document
- \* Intentionally impeding or interfering with the ability of fellow students to use academic materials or to complete academic work
- \* Taking another student's belongings or taking University equipment for personal use.
- \* Knowingly assisting a fellow student in any of the above activities.

Specific examples of appropriate behavior in examinations, research papers, oral presentations and qualifying exams are given below:

**Examinations:** The purpose of an examination is to assess a student's knowledge of a topic defined within a course or courses. **Unless given explicit written instructions to the contrary, a student must work without assistance on an examination.**

- Classroom examination: Each student will provide answers to questions as directed. Unless otherwise stated, no material (books, calculators, computers, communication devices) of any kind can be used during an examination.
- Take-home examination: Each student will provide answers as directed. Unless otherwise stated, research and writing must be done individually without assistance or exchange of information with others. The ability to use source material in the research of answers will be defined for each examination. But, unless stated otherwise, all source material should be cited appropriately as outlined below.

**Research Papers:** The purpose of preparing a research paper is to help a student think deeply about a topic after reading about and/or discussing a subject. These reports are also used by the faculty to see how well a student understands various problems and concepts. Papers must be written in your own words and are expected to reflect your own ideas and your synthesis of the material presented.

- Because you are expected to read about the subject, research papers can include background material from journals, textbooks and, sometimes, websites. All material used to develop an idea or concept in a research paper must be properly cited.
- Proper citation should be given immediately after every idea or fact that derives from another source. A complete bibliographic reference is then written at the end of the paper. Both immediate citation and bibliographic references must be used to appropriately cite work by others. Appropriate citation styles are available in citation handbooks located in Rutgers's Smith Library (<http://libraries.rutgers.edu/smith>) or from a library web page titled "Citing Sources of Information" at:

<http://libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/ref/citing.html>

- Paraphrasing is the use of sentences or ideas that are very close to what someone else has written or said. Paraphrasing written or oral work by others is not permissible. Express yourself using your own words.
- Some facts are considered common scientific knowledge and do not need to be cited (e.g., "all eukaryotic cells are enclosed by membranes"). If you are unsure or have any questions about using material, you should ask the faculty.
- Using the exact wording of another author is **very rarely done in scientific papers**. (Usually it is only found in an historical context). However, if it is necessary, the words must be in quotes followed by a citation (e.g., "Cats are very friendly animals" [Smith et al., 2003]).
- Ignorance of appropriate citation guidelines is not an excuse so it is always safer to cite sources rather than omit citations.
- Keep all notes regarding research papers at least until your grade is finalized.

**Oral and Poster Presentations:** Presentations of data and ideas, orally or in poster format, are important forums to disseminate scientific information. As a student, you may be called upon to make oral presentations for class assignments or to present your research work. These presentations will also occur at crucial times during your doctoral training, such as your doctoral defense, and in your professional career, so it is important that you present your ideas and work clearly and distinguish your work from that of others. During presentations, you should follow these guidelines:

- All text should be in your own words. Ideas taken from other sources should be cited on a slide or orally and, in the case of poster presentations, referenced in a bibliography, similar to a written paper.
- Quotations are rarely used and must be offset by quotation marks and attributed to their source(s) on the same page or slide.
- Figures given without attribution should be your own. Any figures not produced by the presenter must be attributed. Exceptions to this rule are when a mentor gives you explicit permission to use one of his/her figures or slides without providing written attribution. However, even in this case, you should orally attribute the person(s) who produced the figure or slide.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Acts of plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Students, faculty and administration have the right to place charges of ethical misconduct against a student directly with the Dean or his designee. Frivolous accusations of misconduct, however, may themselves be considered violations of the code of professional conduct. The adjudication of such charges shall occur as described in the Rutgers Policy on Students Rights and Disciplinary Procedures, Section E before a Hearing Body constituted as described below.

## HEARING BODY

Each GSBS Division shall have a Hearing Body that makes recommendations to the Dean on disciplinary matters that cannot be resolved at the level of the Senior Associate Dean. The Hearing Body shall be composed of two students, two members of the faculty and one member of the administration. The



student representatives shall be elected by the Graduate Student Association. Faculty representatives are selected by the Senior Associate Dean from nominations from GSBS. The composition of the Hearing Body must be approved by Executive Council.

## **STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS**

Graduate students are encouraged to seek resolution of complaints and grievances by bringing the issue to the course director. If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, it can be brought to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The Associate Dean may offer advice, attempt to resolve the issue, or where appropriate, suggest the matter be brought to the GSBS Student Hearing Body or the University's Office of Affirmative Action. Complaints related to racial, ethnic or sexual harassment or discrimination may, if the student wishes, be brought directly to the Office of Affirmative Action.

Each school of Rutgers has a Hearing Body that can be convened by the Associate Dean to make determinations of fact and recommend disciplinary action regarding all infractions of rules, regulations and standards of the University. The GSBS Hearing Body consists of two students, two members of the faculty and one member of the administration.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

1. The records of students at Rutgers shall be considered confidential material and shall include the admissions application material, academic records, faculty evaluations and all health records.
2. The President of the University, the Dean of the school where the student is enrolled, the Senior Associate Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean and the student's Academic Advisor shall have access to the student's record.
3. The Associate Dean may determine which parts of the student's records may be shared with members of the faculty for specific purposes and may, at his/her discretion, require student consent before information is released to the faculty.
4. Students are hereby informed that all materials submitted by faculty members as confidential prior to January 1, 1975 are not available to be reviewed by the student without the permission of the faculty member. Subjective evaluations submitted after that date are available. Students who wish to inspect and review their educational records may do so by making an appointment with the Associate Dean. **In addition, Rutgers has implemented the BANNER Web for Student Information System. This product provides a website which allows all current students to view their academic and financial records, as well as Schools' course schedules.** Students in certain programs will be able to register on-line.

The links to Web for Student are available from the "myportal.rutgers" portal:

<https://myportal.rutgers.edu>

The University maintains the following records on individual students:

1. General Academic File - Graduate School Office and Registrar's Office
2. Student Health Records - Student and Employee Health Center.
3. Financial Aid Records - Office of the Director of Financial Aid.

Access to these records will be given to university personnel with a legitimate educational interest in the records as determined by the University. Information will be released to other agencies and individuals only in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a copy of which is available on the Rutgers Office of Policy and Project Management website.

You may request copies of information contained in your educational records. Request for copies should be directed to the Registrar.

The following information may be released for legitimate purposes at the discretion of the University: student's name, address, telephone listing. If you do not wish such information to be released, inform the Associate Dean in writing.

If you believe your educational records contain a factual inaccuracy, you may apply to the Associate Dean to have the inaccuracy removed from your records. Non-academic disputes or grievances will be resolved according to procedures described under "Students' Rights, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Procedures."

### **ENROLLMENT AT Rutgers RBHS**

Rutgers RBHS policy states that, - except for authorized dual degree programs no student registered in the graduate program shall at the same time be enrolled as a medical or dental student.

### **RECORDING LECTURES**

When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communication or recording devices.

### **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

The University I.D. card is to be worn in all University buildings, and presented upon request by a security officer. The card is prepared by Rutgers RBHS Human Resources, ADMC Building 5. Letters for the issuance of an I.D. card are prepared by the GSBS office at the beginning of the semester for new students. Students are expected to retain their cards throughout their stay at the Graduate School. Replacement cards are \$10.00.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS**

Students must provide the Graduate School office with their social security numbers for purposes of identification. International students not holding social security cards are required to apply for a tax identification number (ITIN) when they arrive at the Graduate School. International students will receive information regarding social security numbers and tax identification numbers at the mandatory international services orientation.

### **PATENT POLICIES**

University policy requires all personnel, including students, to assign to the University the right to any patentable material developed while the inventor was engaged in activities supported with University funds. Student research and study pursued as a result of enrollment are included in these activities.

## **HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The University requires that each person enrolled in its programs **on a full-time matriculated basis** who participates in clinical experience, have health and accident insurance protection. The University provides a Student Medical Benefit Plan. Students not wishing to join must provide evidence at registration of coverage through an alternative plan. Students shall make such other insurance policies available to the University for review when requested.

## **IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

The following is a summary of Rutgers policy. To review the complete Rutgers **“Student Immunization & Health Requirements Policy”** Go to <http://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/additional-resources/rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-policies>

1. Each student shall undergo a complete history and physical examination prior to matriculation or enrollment and at annual or other appropriate intervals thereafter if indicated by the initial findings.
2. Each student shall receive tuberculin testing (intradermal PPD) with appropriate follow-up of positive reactions prior to matriculation or enrollment. Annually thereafter, students with negative reactions shall be re-tested. Those with positive reactions shall be followed and treated as appropriate.
3. Each student born on or after January 1, 1957 must submit documented proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella prior to matriculation or enrollment. (People born before 1957 are considered to be immune from childhood exposure to the naturally occurring diseases.)
4. Before being permitted to work with materials or procedures that pose potential risk of exposure to HIV or HBV (hepatitis B), appropriate training in practices and operation of facilities shall be provided, proficiency in biosafety must be demonstrated, and students must be immunized against HBV.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

In an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for all Rutgers personnel and visitors, smoking is not permitted in any University facility. Tobacco products are not available for purchase within the University.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

It is the policy of the University to assist students whose performance has been impaired by drugs and/or alcohol dependency, mental disorder, or other medical disorders while maintaining a balance between the individual's rights and the University's duty to safeguard the public health and effectively discharge its mission.

The University is committed to the rehabilitation of all impaired students whenever possible, but when attempts at rehabilitation fail or are inappropriate, impairment is sufficient grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal. Where an incident involves a violation of state law, the Office of Legal Management will be consulted to determine whether there is an affirmative duty to report that violation. Every effort will be made to preserve the confidentiality of all referred and identified students and of individuals making referrals when indicated.

Brochures for Drug and Alcohol Abuse are available. The following procedures have been established to deal with students suspected of drug or alcohol abuse:

1. Students suspected of being impaired, based on their performance or on other more direct evidence, will be reported to the departmental chairman.
2. The chairman will evaluate the evidence and seek consultation with other faculty and/or students if it is deemed necessary.
3. If the evidence warrants further action, the chairman will discuss the matter with the student. This may be done along with the departmental Graduate Committee or with the student's advisor, at the chairman's discretion.
4. If the chairman and/or departmental Graduate Committee concur that the student is in need of help for drug or alcohol abuse, the student will be referred to the Student Mental Health Service, or other appropriate professional help.
5. As a result of this referral, two outcomes are possible:
  - a. The student agrees, in which case the chairman will monitor his or her progress and appropriate adjustments will be instituted in the student's program.
  - b. The student resists, in which case disciplinary action, based on the student's performance, will be instituted. This may result in dismissal from the program. If this occurs, the student will be advised of the option to take the matter to the Graduate School Hearing Body, as established in the Students Right and Responsibilities Document.

### **Impaired Students Program**

Rutgers RBHS has established an "Impaired Students Program". Further information on the policy and program can be obtained at the Graduate School Office.

### **STUDENT ASSISTANT FACILITATOR**

The Student Assistance Facilitator interacts with students on behalf of the school. They help students with a variety of emotional and mental health issues. If a faculty member feels that a student may need intervention they should call the student facilitator for their campus. The student facilitator is:

Barbara Caldwell, PhD, APRN

973-972-7450

[caldweba@sn.rutgers.edu](mailto:caldweba@sn.rutgers.edu)

### **SCHOOL CLOSING**

The Rutgers website, [myportal.rutgers.edu](http://myportal.rutgers.edu) and the following Radio stations will announce the suspension of Rutgers classes in the event of adverse weather conditions:

<b><u>Northern New Jersey</u></b>	<b><u>Central New Jersey</u></b>	<b><u>Southern New Jersey</u></b>
WCBS - 880 AM	WCTC - 1450 AM	WKYW - 1060 AM
WOR - 710 AM	WMGQ - 98.3 FM	

## **V. UNIVERSITY FACILITIES**

### **CAFETERIA**

The University Hospital Cafeteria is located on B-level of the Hospital. An additional cafeteria is located on the second floor of the Doctors Office Center.

## DUPLICATING SERVICES

Photocopy machines for student use are also located in the George F. Smith Library located on C level of the Medical Science Building.

## PARKING/PARKING HANG-TAGS

The University provides parking facilities for faculty, students, and staff. Parking is by permit only. Graduate students wishing to purchase a parking hang-tag, must pay in full, up front. Parking hang tags for students are available in the **Rutgers-Identification Card Office located at ADMC 5, Room 531**.

## TELEPHONE USAGE

Students may use departmental phones **with permission** only for interoffice calls or other official matters.

## VI. CURRICULUM

GSBS offers the Master of Science (MS) and Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) degrees. Combined MS/MBA, MBS/MPH, Medical Residency/ MS programs and Certificate programs are available.

Degree requirements include at least a *B* (3.00) average and, for the MS degree, substantial research experience culminating in a thesis. A non-research option is available for the Master of Biomedical Sciences.

### A. PROGRAMS

#### 1. Master's Programs

The GSBS admits applicants for the MS or MBS programs.

The requirements for the MS or MBS degree are usually completed in two years, but must be completed within four years. Minimum requirements include:

A total of 30 credits of graduate level course work, with at least a 3.00 (*B*) GPA, which includes courses in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Cellular Biology (6 credits, 2 semesters), Seminar (1 credit) and Research in Biomedical Sciences (2 credits), and 21 additional credits in elective courses. A thesis acceptable to the candidate's Advisory Committee and to the Executive Council may substitute for 5 credits of course work. MS candidates selecting the Research Thesis option must establish a thesis advisory committee and follow the procedures described in Section C. The Master's program has a requirement of thirty credits. Students who would benefit from additional coursework may apply for up to six additional credits. The grades will be counted in the cumulative GPA.

A student in the Master's program who matriculates into medical school before completing the degree requirements is expected to make a good faith effort to complete the degree within one year. Students who do not complete the program within a year of entering the medical school will be dropped from the roles of the graduate school.

A maximum of six (6) credits may be transferred towards the master's Program in Biomedical Sciences.

#### 2. MS/MBA, MBS/MPH

GSBS offers a combined degree program with Rutgers University Graduate School of Management (MS/MBA) and with Rutgers School of Public Health (MBS/MPH).

## **B. SELECTION OF A MENTOR**

Students in the MS Program who plan to do a research thesis should meet with the Assistant Dean of Curriculum during the first semester to select a mentor and should follow the guidelines in section E for thesis preparation. Note that both the Thesis Advisory Committee appointments should be made and the thesis proposal should be submitted in a timely fashion, usually within a month or two after the thesis work has begun (see section E below).

## **GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS PERFORMING RESEARCH FOR THE MS DEGREE AT AN OFF-CAMPUS LOCATION**

Most research for the MS degree is done on campus with one of the faculty of the GSBS-Newark. In cases where students choose to perform research in a laboratory that is not on our campus the following guidelines must be followed:

- The off-campus advisor must have an appointment in the graduate school.
- The student must have a mentor-of-record who is a full member of the graduate school faculty
- At least two members of the thesis advisory committee must be from the full-time graduate faculty
- The arrangement must be approved by the Associate Dean and the Executive Council.
- At least two advisory group meetings per year must be scheduled to monitor progress in thesis research
- The work to be performed must conform to the same standards as those applied to other students in GSBS (high standards of excellence, scholarly in nature, non-proprietary and hypothesis driven).

## **C. GUIDELINES FOR THESIS PREPARATION FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

**General:** A master's thesis is 5 credits, must be laboratory (not library) based and must be hypothesis driven. The thesis is usually done over one or two semesters or a summer and a semester. The conclusion of the research is based on testing the hypothesis but not necessarily on proving the hypothesis (unlike a doctoral thesis). The mentor's lab is given \$1,000 to help defray the costs of the research for each student completing a Masters thesis.

### **Procedures:**

- Identify a mentor and agree on a project.
- Register for the 5-credit Masters thesis research, course number MSBS 5000.
- Form a Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of a minimum of three individuals from faculty of GSBS who are expert in the subject of the research.
- Write a short (less than 10 pages) proposal of the work to be performed, clearly stating the hypothesis to be tested.
- Submit the proposal to the members of the TAC and have them sign the *Thesis Advisory Committee Nomination Form* (available on the GSBS website). Submit the signed, dated form to the GSBS Administrative Office. Must be submitted and approved prior to the completion of the thesis.

- Upon completion of the experiments, write a MS dissertation (same general form as the Ph.D. thesis, but much narrower in scope. In general, the thesis is approximately 50 pages long without references).
- Submit the dissertation to the Thesis Advisory Committee for approval.
- Follow the guidelines for MS Thesis Preparation (below) regarding thesis format.
- Once the TAC has approved the final dissertation, have the TAC members sign the *Report of Completion of Requirements* form for Masters Students and submit the signed form, along with one original and 2 copies of the dissertation to the GSBS administrative office.

### **Guidelines For MS Thesis Preparation rev. 08.07**

1. Submit one original and 2 good quality copies (not stapled or bound) directly to the GSBS administrative office.
1. PAPER: standard size, 8 1/2" x 11" bond; 25% rag content or better for the original. A lesser quality paper may be used for the copies.
3. MARGINS: 1 3/4" from left; 1 1/4" from top; 1" from right and bottom
4. FORMAT: Single side, block format, double space throughout the text. Font style and minimum size must be either Times New Roman (12 pt) or Ariel (11 pt).
5. TITLE PAGE: Should contain:
  - a. title in capital letters;
  - b. name of the candidate with degrees already awarded;
  - c. the following statement for MS candidates:  
  
 "A Thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MS Degree"
  - d. this statement is followed at the bottom of the Title Page by:  
 "Newark, New Jersey 07107" and "Month and Year" during which the thesis is being presented.
6. PAGE NUMBERING: All pages should be numbered consecutively except the title page.
7. FORMAT
  - a. Table of Contents
  - b. Acknowledgements
  - c. Abstract
  - d. Introduction
  - e. Rationale
  - f. Materials and Methods
  - g. Experimental Results
    - Section I
    - Section II (Divide if appropriate)
    - Section III
  - h. Discussion
  - i. Summary and Conclusions
  - j. Bibliography
  - k. Appendix, Abbreviations

8. FOOTNOTES: Are allowed to be included at the bottom of the same page.
9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Include the sources of financial support.
10. ABSTRACT: Not to exceed 350 words, double-spaced.
11. FIGURES, TABLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS:
  - a. Should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numbers.
  - b. Should include self-explanatory legends and title on the same page. If this is not feasible, use the next numbered page and turn the figure so that it faces the legend.
  - c. Type legends preferably 1 1/2" space.
  - d. Do not use oversize tables, figures or illustration; if necessary, reduce to 5" x 8" overall.
  - e. Insert figures, tables and illustrations as close as possible to the text describing the results.
12. ABBREVIATIONS: Use standard chemical symbols, Journals, units of measurements, etc.
13. REFERENCES:
  - a. References may be arranged in the text either by mentioning the surname of the first (1-3) authors and year of publication, or by consecutive numbers in the order of citation.
  - b. Give the complete title and all co-authors (surnames and initials) of each paper included in the bibliography. Arrange in alphabetical sequence according to senior (co) author's surname, or in the numerical order of citation in the text.
  - c. Multiple lines of each reference should be typed single spaced.
  - d. Allow double space between references.

Use a new page for each segment or division.

## **F. GRADUATION/GRADUATION FEE**

After successful completion of course work with at least a *B* (3.00) average and approval of the dissertation/thesis, the Executive Council will recommend to the Rutgers Board of Trustees the award of the appropriate degree.

A University graduation fee will be assessed following the award of degree approval by Executive Council. Students receiving a joint degree or a dual degree will be charged a graduation fee by each school.

## **ADDENDUM GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) CONSTITUTION**



**Article I Name**

Section I The name of the organization shall be "Graduate Student Association, Newark"

**Article II Purpose**

Section I The purpose of this association shall be to cultivate and promote the basic medical sciences; to promote among graduate students mutual improvements, social involvement and fraternalism; and generally to do all things advisable, desirable or necessary in the interest of graduate studies and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Section II This organization shall function not only as the Graduate Student Association but also as the student governing body.

**Article III Membership**

Section I The members of this association shall consist of persons whose qualifications and classifications are set forth in Article I of the Bylaws.

**Article IV Government**

Section I Legislative Body: The legislative body and governing body of this association shall be its active membership assembled at any Business Session, as provided in Article I of the Bylaws. All the privileges, powers, duties and functions granted this association are its accepted authority.

Section II Administrative Body: This association shall be administered by its active membership provided for in Article IV of the Bylaws.

**Article V Officers and Representatives**

Section I The elected departmental representatives to the Association shall constitute an Executive Committee that shall consist of one representative from each department of the GSBS and two representatives from the Master's program at GSBS.

Section II The Executive Committee shall have as its officers, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section III The officers of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the members of the GSA.

Section IV Each representative and alternate to the Executive Committee shall be appointed by majority vote of the graduate students of his/her department.

Section V The term of office of each representative/alternate shall be for one year.

Section VI The term of each officer of the GSA shall be for one year.

Section VII Departmental representatives may not serve concurrently as Executive Council officers. Officers will be excluded from Executive Committee voting. The president will vote only to break a tie.

## Article VI **Sessions**

Section I The business sessions of the Association shall be conducted by the membership as provided in Article II of the Bylaws.

## Article VII **Quorum**

Section I More than half of the active membership shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the association. At any meeting in which attendance does not constitute a quorum, those present shall discuss the business at hand but no votes shall be taken.

Section II Two Thirds of the departments being represented shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee. At any meeting in which attendance does not constitute a quorum, those present shall discuss the business at hand but no votes shall be taken.

## Article VIII **Amendments**

Section I This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 3/4 majority vote of all active members, provided the proposed amendment(s) has been presented at a previous meeting.

## **BYLAWS**

### Article I **Membership**

#### Section I Classification

- A. Active
- B. Associate
- C. Non-quorum

#### Section II Qualifications

- A. Active membership in this Association shall be limited to students registered as full time graduate students in the Rutgers-GSBS, Newark campus.
- B. Associate membership is conferred by this Association to those students that hold non-matriculated status, or part time status (including Masters Candidates) who do not pay dues.
- C. Non-quorum membership is conferred by this Association to those individuals not in the above two categories who attend a meeting, or meetings, of the Association.

### Article II **Meetings**

Section I At least two meetings of the Association shall be held each year. The exact time and place shall be specified as required.

Section II Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President or by the request of 10 members made to the President.

### Article III **Money/Funds**

Section I All monies/funds required for Association functions shall be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section II All money issues voted upon favorably are expected to be equally financed by all active members. Students with special membership may contribute to funds if so desired without obligation.

## Article IV **Officers**

Section I Election of officers of the Association will take place during the month of February and will be determined by majority vote of the GSA.

Section II Permanent or temporary vacancies occurring in office shall be filled by appointment by the President for the unexpired term of office.

Section III Term of office of all elected officers shall begin in February and end the following year when the new officers are elected.

Section IV Departmental representatives and alternates will be elected by majority vote in their respective departments immediately following election of the GSA officers.

Section V The Association shall be responsible for providing elected representatives of its student body to serve as student Senators to the Rutgers Student Senate as described by the Rutgers Student Senate Constitution and By-laws.

## Article V **Committees**

Section I Association committees shall be formulated by the Executive Committee. Association members requested for attendance at extra-association meetings, or to function as an extra-association member, shall be appointed by the President.

Section II The duties and functions of committees shall be outlined at the time of their constitution.

## Article VI **Responsibility of Officers**

Section I It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all Association meetings, to approve all bills for payment, sign all documents, appoint members to committees, and perform such other duties as are customary to his/her office.

The President shall attend meetings of the Executive Council of the Rutgers GSBS at Newark.

Section II It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assist the President in all duties as requested. He/she shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section III It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a record of the financial transactions of the Association; to collect all monies; to pay out the same, provided assets are on hand and upon the presentation of a proper voucher, signed by the President. He/she shall make an accurate report of the Association's treasury at each meeting.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to keep minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and to distribute notices for all GSA events.

Section IV It shall be the duty of department representatives to assist the officers of the Executive Committee in fulfilling any and all of the aforementioned duties.

Section V It shall be the duty of alternates to assist the representatives with their duties upon request and to assume those duties in the representative's absence.

Section VI At the expiration of all officers' terms, they shall turn over to their successors all records, books, and other properties relating to their offices.

Section VII It is the duty of all incumbent officers to orient officers-elect as to the duties of their offices.

#### Article VII **Rules of Order**

Section I The Association shall be governed in all matters not governed by the Constitution and Bylaws, by Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised.

#### Article V **Voting**

Section I When a constituted quorum is present at a meeting of the Association, a simple majority will decide whatever issue is before the body, not involving the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section II When a constituted quorum is present at a meeting of the Executive Committee voting shall be by 2/3 majority, with one vote being cast by each department.

<http://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/additional-resources/rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-policies>

<http://policies.rutgers.edu/view-policies/table-contents>

[http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current\\_students/academic\\_info.htm](http://njms.rutgers.edu/gsbs/current_students/academic_info.htm)

**Policy Name:** Students Rights, Responsibilities, and Disciplinary Procedures

**Approval Authority:** RBHS Chancellor

**Originally Issued:** 06/07/1995

**Revisions:** 1/10/2010, 4/22/2013

**1. Who Should Read This Policy**

All Rutgers University students within Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, School of Health Related Professions, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, New Jersey Medical School, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Public Health, and School of Nursing (former UMDNJ School of Nursing).

**2. Related Documents (refer to [policies.rutgers.edu](http://policies.rutgers.edu) for additional information)**

- A. Research Misconduct
- B. Student Essential Functions
- C. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (<http://compliance.rutgers.edu/ferpa>)
- D. Student Intervention Coordination
- E. Student Involuntary Leave of Absence and Involuntary Withdrawal
- F. Student and Housestaff Ombudspersons
- H. New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (N.J.S.A. 18A:3B-68)

**3. The Policy**

- A. Student Responsibilities
  - 1. RBHS students in the above stated educational programs have the following responsibilities:
    - a. as U.S. citizens, residents or visitors: the responsibility to be aware of and to abide by all applicable Federal, state and local civil and criminal laws and regulations;
    - b. as students at RBHS: the responsibility to be aware of and to abide by all applicable University and School policies, rules, procedures and standards, both general and academic; and the responsibility for personal and professional integrity and honesty; and

c. as future health care professionals and/or biomedical scientists holding a public trust: the responsibility to adhere to all generally recognized standards of professional and ethical conduct; and the responsibility to help ensure that high standards of professional and ethical conduct are upheld by fellow students, colleagues and peers by reporting incidents of academic and professional dishonesty observed in others.

2. Each School shall have an Honor Code and/or Code of Professional Conduct which sets forth general principles of integrity and honesty as well as ethical and professional expectations for behavior. These may be patterned after codes of behavior promulgated by national professional associations. These codes shall be distributed to students upon enrollment, incorporated into catalogs, student handbooks and/or other appropriate student materials, and discussed with students during their course of study. Students shall be informed at the same time that violations of the Code will be considered with the gravest concern and may be punishable with sanctions as severe as suspension or dismissal. Violations of the Code may be considered a failure to adhere to the academic standards of the School.

#### B. Student Rights

1. Students on Rutgers campuses have the following rights: the academic freedom to examine and discuss all questions of relevance and to express opinions publicly and privately; the right to be informed of and to participate, when invited, in the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies and procedures affecting student affairs, and to express views about policies and issues of student interest; the right to form associations to promote common interests; the right to be apprised of criteria for academic evaluation, advancement and graduation; all rights and protections mandated by applicable Federal and state constitutions, laws and regulations; and the right to seek redress of grievances and have complaints heard.
2. Each RBHS School shall have and shall publicize policies, procedures and standards ensuring that its students can exercise the above rights.

#### C. Academic Performance

1. In accordance with School Bylaws, the faculty of each School have the duty and authority to establish academic standards and rules, including standards for examinations, grading, academic standing, attendance, promotion, dismissal, and requirements for degrees and certificates. These academic standards and rules shall be set forth in the School's catalog or student handbook.
2. All actions relating to student academic performance shall be governed by appropriate School bylaws and procedures, whether or not disciplinary action is taken pursuant to Section V.E. below.
3. Action may be taken to address a student's ability to fulfill the Essential Functions required for participation in the course of study in which the student is enrolled pursuant to the RBHS policy, Student Essential Functions.

#### D. Student Ombudsperson

Each Dean shall designate an individual at his/her School to serve as an Ombudsperson to serve as a resource for students and to guide and assist students and the School in the evaluation of options for resolving problems. Ombudsperson will have a functional relationship with the University Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic

Affairs, and the ability to approach any individual within the School or University administration. The Ombudsperson will be independent of the offices and individuals who have notice, compliance, regulatory, enforcement, adjudicatory and disciplinary functions with respect to students. The Ombudsperson will have a set term, which may be renewed by the Dean at the end of each term, and may be removed during any term only for good cause. Ombudspersons shall maintain confidentiality to the extent permitted by law and will not maintain any records relating to consultations or activities other than statistical reporting. The policy, Student and Housestaff Ombudspersons, will serve as a model for each Ombuds office.

E. Disciplinary Infractions

The following list provides examples of actionable disciplinary infractions under this policy's student disciplinary procedures, and may also subject the student to action by the RBHS School concerning academic performance or research misconduct occurring on campus or off campus:

1. an infraction of Federal, state or local civil or criminal laws and regulations;
2. an infraction of University or School policies, procedures, rules and standards;
3. an infraction of professional and academic codes of honor or standards of behavior;
4. an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic or any act that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:
  - (a) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; or
  - (b) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
  - (c) creates a hostile environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student;

(Reprinted in part from: New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights 2010, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14).

5. acts of sexual harassment, including sexual violence or sexual coercion, whether or not the acts are the subject of civil or criminal action;
6. physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or when a person is incapable of giving consent;
7. stealing or other unethical means of acquiring materials and documents;
8. forging of any material or document;

9. falsification or fabrication of any document or data;
10. plagiarism;
11. preventing or interfering with other students in the fulfillment of their academic assignments;
12. cheating;
13. conduct that causes a material and substantial disruption to the educational mission of the school or an individual's work or study.

F. Disciplinary Procedural Requirements

1. A request for disciplinary action against a student may be made in writing to the Dean by any student, faculty member or administrative officer within thirty (30) working days of an alleged infraction or the discovery of an infraction under Section V.E. of this policy.
2. The Dean or his/her designee may attempt to resolve the matter with the accused student, except in cases involving allegations of sexual violence or sexual coercion, which are not permitted to be resolved informally but must be forwarded by the Dean to the Hearing Body. A complainant alleging sexual harassment will not be required to meet in person with the accused at any time. In addition, if the Dean or his/her designee concludes that the matter cannot or should not be resolved informally, he/she shall refer it to the Hearing Body of the School within ten (10) working days of the decision that the matter cannot or should not be resolved informally. At the Dean's discretion, the awarding of a degree or certificate may be delayed pending the outcome of the disciplinary procedure.
3. The Hearing Body shall forward to the accused and to the complainant written notice of the complaint and of the time, date and place of the hearing, which shall be held within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a request from the Dean or his/her designee.
4. The Hearing Body shall convene to hear the complaint and make recommendations for action to the Dean.
  - a. The Hearing Body shall be an established committee at each School and shall be constituted according to rules established by each School, but in all events shall consist of at least four members, two of whom must be students, and others who may be faculty, administrators or students, or any combination thereof, who are not directly involved in the matter to be considered.
  - b. Witnesses may be called by any participant. The accused student's education records, as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, may be examined and considered by the Hearing Body. Relevant materials may be presented by any participant. The Chair of the Hearing Body may at any time request submission of documents or an appearance by anyone involved in the matter, and may conduct as many hearing sessions as necessary to complete its consideration of the complaint, within the time period designated in this procedure. The Chair of the Hearing Body may request submission of information concerning other disciplinary actions taken by the School against any student, without identification of the student(s) involved, to inform the Hearing Body's consideration of recommendations for discipline.



- c. Students may consult private legal counsel at any time for advice. Students or legal counsel may submit to the Hearing Body any documents or other evidence relevant to the matter at any time prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Legal counsel shall not be permitted to appear at the proceedings of the Hearing Body, but may be present outside the hearing room to consult with the student, at the student's request. Students may be accompanied by a non-attorney advocate during the hearing to consult privately with the student and, at the student's request, to present a final statement on the student's behalf. No other participation by the advocate is permitted.
- d. The burden of proof shall rest with the complainant. The standard of proof shall be the preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e. it is more likely than not that the offense occurred).
- e. The Chair of the Hearing Body shall rule on all procedural matters in accordance with this policy, with the procedural rules of the School, and with generally accepted terms of academic fairness. Whenever necessary, the Chair may seek the advice of the Office of Legal Management in procedural matters. Hearing Body procedures shall, at a minimum, ensure:
  - i. that all allegations be fully heard and considered by the Hearing Body, whether or not the accused student admits committing the offense.
  - ii. that witnesses designated by the complainant, the accused, the School administration or the Hearing Body be heard and that the accused be permitted to be present during testimony; the Hearing Body may request the presence of the complainant during the testimony of other witnesses, in whole or in part. In addition, administrative staff may be present during the Hearing Body proceedings to provide assistance to the Hearing Body.
  - iii. that, subject to protections provided by FERPA, both the complainant and the accused be afforded similar and timely access to any information that is considered by the Hearing Body.
  - iv. that testimony during the hearing shall be tape recorded or recorded and transcribed by a court stenographer, excluding all deliberations by the Hearing Body; an accused student may request in advance that the School employ a court stenographer during the hearing, at the student's own expense, and obtain a copy of the recording or a transcript at his/her own expense.
  - v. that the Hearing Body complete its hearing procedures within forty (40) working days of the commencement of the hearing, and submit to the Dean, with copies to the complainant and to the accused, within seven (7) working days thereafter, a written recommendation, including any findings of fact made by the Hearing Body, and a reporting of the total vote tally of the Hearing Body's decision, without reference to individual votes.
  - vi. that the recommendations of the Hearing Body may consist of any or no disciplinary action, based on the factual findings, the severity of the infraction, the accused student's education

records at the School, and any procedures, policies or codes of the School or of the University. Examples of possible disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Dismissal of charges: dismissal of the complaint and removal of the complaint from University records.
  - (b) Reprimand: an oral or written statement by the Dean to the student involved.
  - (c) Probation: a specific period of time during which conditions may be placed on the student's enrollment, and the student's academic achievement and/or conduct monitored by the School; findings by the Hearing Body of additional disciplinary infractions during this period will result in the dismissal of the student.
  - (d) Suspension: a specific period during which the student is barred from enrollment.
  - (e) Dismissal: severing of the affiliation between the student and the School.
  - (f) Withholding of degree or certificate: temporary or permanent withholding of degree or certificate.
  - (g) Degree or certificate revocation.
- vii. that the Hearing Body recommendations are supported by no less than a majority vote of the members hearing the matter.
- f. All notices and correspondence to an accused student shall be sent certified mail, return receipt requested, or by another method providing confirmation of delivery, and such receipts or confirmations shall be retained by the School.
- g. The student may seek the advice of faculty or students who are not involved in the matter in question and who do not hold an administrative position in the School constituting a potential conflict of interest. Following the Dean's submission of the matter to the Hearing Body, neither School nor other Rutgers University administrative officers, faculty, staff or representative may advise an accused student or his/her representative in any matter relating to the disciplinary action, except for explanation of the procedures to be followed. Administrative officers whose positions may constitute a conflict of interest may not advise an accused student in any matter pertaining to the alleged infraction. The Dean may designate an administrative officer to participate in the hearing in order to present testimony or materials on behalf of the School.
5. Within five (5) working days of receipt of the Hearing Body's recommendation, any party may submit written exceptions to the Dean.
6. The Dean may review any education records of involved students, seek information and consult with any other party, including the student, complainant and members of the Hearing Body. Except in extraordinary circumstances, (notice of which shall be provided by the Dean to the accused student and the complainant) the Dean or his/her designee shall, within thirty (30) working days of the last submission by any party of written exceptions by any party, render a

final decision on disciplinary action to be taken and shall provide written copies of the decision to the student, the complainant and Hearing Body members. The Dean's decision shall be rendered earlier if the accused student is expected to graduate before the expiration of this thirty working day period.

7. Within five (5) working days of receipt of the Dean's decision, the accused student and, solely in matters alleging sexual harassment, violence or coercion, the complainant may submit a written appeal to the RBHS Chancellor. RBHS Chancellor may, at his or her discretion, review any education records of involved students and seek information and consult with any other party, including the student, complainant, members of the Hearing Body and the Dean. Except in extraordinary circumstances, (notice of which shall be provided by the Dean to the accused student and the complainant) the RBHS Chancellor shall, within thirty (30) working days, render a non-appealable written decision and shall provide written copies of the decision to the student, the complainant, Hearing Body members and the Dean. Such decision shall be rendered earlier if the accused student is expected to graduate before the expiration of this thirty working day period.
8. The School shall retain all records, notices, correspondence, tapes and transcripts pertaining to any action taken pursuant to this policy for a period of seven (7) years following conclusion of the action.
9. The Office of Senior Vice President and General Counsel may advise the Hearing Body and any administrative officer on interpretation of this policy and any other legal or procedural question at any time, except that no legal counsel shall be present during the taking of testimony by the Hearing Body.
10. There shall be no action taken to suspend or expel a student from school prior to completion of these disciplinary hearing procedures, unless, in the judgment of the Dean or his/her designee, the continued presence of the student poses a substantial and immediate danger to the welfare or safety of any person or property. The Dean may in such cases take action to prevent harm prior to and during the conduct of a hearing; the Hearing Body shall convene as rapidly as possible to render recommendations. A student suspended in this manner shall be given an opportunity to appear personally before the Dean or his/her designee to discuss the alleged misconduct and whether the student's continued presence poses a substantial and immediate danger to himself/herself, to others and/or to property. Alternatively, action may be taken pursuant to the University policy, Student Involuntary Leave of Absence and Involuntary Withdrawal.
11. Delays in any time period requirements in disciplinary procedures may be made by written agreement by the accused and the Dean or his/her designee, and, in the case of a matter before a Hearing Body, by the Chair of the Hearing Body.

G. Specific School Rules for Disciplinary Procedures

1. Each School shall adopt procedural rules to govern the conduct of disciplinary hearings in conformity with Section V.F of this policy and with the specific needs of the School.
  - a. Such rules shall establish the number, term and manner of appointment of Hearing Body members, alternates and the Chair. The responsibilities of faculty, staff and student members to make themselves available to participate when needed in the hearing process shall be established upon their appointment.

- b. Such rules shall, in the case of joint programs between Schools of the University and outside institutions, establish procedures to govern hearings affecting students in those programs. So long as principles of academic fairness are included, the procedure of either institution may be employed at the discretion of the Dean, considering such factors as which School has administrative responsibility for the student and which School awards the degree from the program.
  - c. Such rules may contain a code of student rights and responsibilities, establishing rules of conduct and standards of personal and professional behavior.
2. Such rules will be available to students when adopted or amended through convenient means such as the Student Handbook.

#### H. Jurisdiction

1. Action initiated under either academic or disciplinary procedures does not preclude subsequent or simultaneous action under the other or under the University's research misconduct procedures.
2. If a complaint alleging a disciplinary infraction is submitted to the Dean, the Dean may determine that the allegation warrants academic action instead of or in addition to the disciplinary procedure, and may forward the matter to the appropriate body for recommendations. The Dean may also refer the student for an evaluation pursuant to University policy, Student Essential Functions. See EXHIBIT for a sample letter.
3. If a complaint alleging a disciplinary infraction during a student's enrollment or other participation in University activities is submitted after the student has graduated or otherwise terminated the relationship with the University, the complaint may, at the Dean's discretion, be submitted to the Hearing Body in accordance with this policy and procedure. Revocation of a degree or certificate may be recommended by the Hearing Body to the Dean.

#### I. Permitted Communications and Confidentiality

To promote the safety and/or welfare of a student and/or of others, and to the extent permitted by FERPA and other applicable laws, the School or University officials may, when appropriate, report incidents of disruptive behavior, or other conduct of serious concern, to the student's next of kin and/or to other appropriate School or University officials or health care or counseling providers, or to law enforcement agencies.

Except for such reports and communications made pursuant to this policy, and to the extent permitted by FERPA and other applicable laws, all proceedings and deliberations conducted pursuant to this policy and procedure will be considered confidential and may not be released or disclosed by any participant without permission from all of the involved parties or without valid subpoena or court order.

#### VI. EXHIBIT

Sample letter: STUDENT REFERRED FOR EVALUATION AS PART OF DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

EXHIBIT

**SAMPLE LETTER: STUDENT REFERRED FOR EVALUATION AS PART OF  
DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

[Date]

[Student Name and Address]

Dear [Student]:

Your well-being and safety are of great concern to me and your faculty. Because we are concerned about your well-being, and in light of recent incidents related to the current disciplinary process in which you are involved, you are being referred to [name of doctor/counselor/practice] for an evaluation to determine your fitness to continue as a student at the [Rutgers University -School].

This referral is being made after careful examination of information of concern presented through the disciplinary process. During the disciplinary hearing, the following incidents were related to the hearing body:

A report by a faculty member of a recent statement you made during a heated debate with a fellow student over a class assignment. It was reported that you said "if your lousy work influences my grade, you're going to regret it, something bad will happen to you." The faculty member who reported this statement was very upset by the remark and believed it to be serious.

Earlier in the year, several students in your study group reported that you told them that if you did not do well this semester, you would hold them responsible and "there would be trouble." When approached about this remark, you admitted making the statement, but insisted that it was a joke.

On another occasion, you were interrupted by a school administrator while engaging in a loud, angry confrontation with a fellow student. Although you later apologized, the fellow student reported feeling threatened.

The Rutgers University -[Name of School] Essential Functions for participation in courses includes the following requirement:

"E. Behavioral and Social Skills

The student must demonstrate emotional stability with appropriate interpersonal relationships and communication skills. He/she must be able to exercise good judgment and sustain an attention level necessary to complete all responsibilities promptly; be attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and develop mature, sensitive, professional and effective relationships with patients/clients (in well and diseased states from every gender, socioeconomic status and cultural group) and health care workers. The student must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. He/she must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical setting. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, appropriate hygiene, appearance, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are required throughout the admissions and educational processes.

A student whose behavior or performances raises questions concerning his or her ability to fulfill the essential functions may be required to obtain evaluation and/or testing by a health care provider designated by the School, and to provide the results to the Campus Student Health Service for the purpose of determining whether the student is fit to pursue the educational program. If the student is

deemed fit to pursue the program, the School reserves the right to require actions recommended by the health care provider, including further testing, counseling, monitoring, leave of absence, etc.”

We are requiring that you submit to an evaluation that will assist us in determining your ability to safely participate in the School's educational program; this includes your continued clinical contact with patients in health care facilities and classroom participation.

Please note that the results of this evaluation will be shared with my office and University officials, as may be deemed necessary, to help ensure your safety and well-being. Following the evaluation, if you wish to view the results, please contact me directly and I will arrange for you to review the results in the presence of an appropriate healthcare provider who will be available to assist with questions.

Yours truly,

[Dean or Associate Dean for Student Affairs]