**Microbial Biology Graduate Program First Year Ph.D. Student Requirements - 2015**

**Registration:** All first year Ph.D. students take the same courses. In 2015 the Fall registration deadline is Friday, August 31. Please wait until August before you register (otherwise Rutgers will send you tuition bills all summer). Fellowship students must also fill out paperwork to obtain tuition remission (below). Classes start Tuesday, September 1. Please register for the courses listed below. The registration web site is [https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/).

**Year 1: Fall Semester (12 credits)**
- 16:682:501 Microbial Life (3)
- 16:682:502 Microbial Biochemistry (3)
- 16:682:521 Seminar in Microbiology (1)
- 16:682:530 Scientific Conduct/Ethics (1)
- 16:682:611 Laboratory Rotation (2)
- 16:682:612 Laboratory Rotation (2)
- 16:682:811 Graduate Fellowship (0)

**Year 1: Spring Semester (9 credits)**
- 16:682:503 Microbial Physiology (3)
- 16:682:504 Microbial Genetics (3)
- 16:682:522 Seminar in Microbiology (1)
- 16:682:613 Laboratory Rotation (2)
- 16:682:812 Graduate Fellowship (0)

**In 2015-16 the rotation dates are:**
- 611: September 14 to November 6 (8 weeks)
- 612: November 9 to December 11 (5 weeks) plus January 4 to January 22 (3 weeks)
- 613: January 25 to March 25 (9 weeks minus Spring Break equals 8 weeks)

**Laboratory Rotations:** Students should contact three different Microbial Biology faculty members and arrange research rotations. A list of faculty and their research interests is [here](#). It is recommended that you arrange your first rotation as soon as possible. If you need help in choosing rotation advisors please discuss your research interests with Dr. Zylstra and he will suggest some professors. While not recommended, you may rotate with the same professor two or three times. Please fill out the Rotation Form (MBGS Sakai site Resources>Forms) prior to the start of each rotation and return a signed copy to Ms. Maguire. Immediately following each lab rotation a written report should be emailed to Dr. Zylstra (zylstra@aesop.rutgers.edu). The one page (single spaced) written report should include the background, specific aims, results, and discussion of the research performed.

**Tuition Remission:** Ph.D. students on fellowships are entitled to full tuition remission. Once you arrive on campus you should see Kathy Maguire or Beth Nugent as soon as possible to process the RT-100 Tuition Remission form (MBGS Sakai site Resources>Forms).

**Comprehensive Exam:** The Comprehensive Exam is given at the end of the first year, usually on the first Friday in June. Part 1 (4 hours) will be eight questions dealing with material covered by the four core courses. Part 2 (4 hours) will be eight questions dealing with primary journal articles passed out two weeks in advance. Ph.D. students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in the four core courses to take the Comprehensive Exam. No more than one C or C+ is allowed.

**Choice of Thesis Advisor:** After the three lab rotations the thesis research advisor should be chosen. If necessary a fourth or fifth rotation can be arranged. Please fill out the Ph.D. advisor selection form (MBGS Sakai site Resources>Forms), have the supervising professor sign it, and return the form to Kathy Maguire by April 1. If you do not have a multi-year fellowship then your thesis advisor is responsible for your stipend and tuition starting the second year. It is crucial to choose an advisor as soon as possible so that the advisor has time to arrange funding. Formal coursework for the second and subsequent years should be chosen in consultation with your thesis advisor and Dr. Zylstra. Remember that a minimum of 30 course credits and a minimum of 30 research credits are needed for the Ph.D. (and a minimum of 72 credits overall).