

How to Advance to Doctoral Candidacy

After you have completed your non-research Cancer Biology Program requirements, you qualify for doctoral candidacy. Most students file for doctoral candidacy in the Fall Quarter of their second year.

1. Take and pass your [qualifying exam](#). Deadline for quals in your second year: December 31.

2. If you intend for your quals committee to be your dissertation reading committee, have them sign the [reading committee form](#) at your quals, so you don't have to track them down later.

3. Bring the following to the [Program Office](#):

- Your qualifying exam form, signed by the three members of your quals committee
- Your proposal from quals
- Your reading committee form (signed, except by the Program Director), if possible.

4. We will record this in Axess and in our database.

5. If you meet the following criteria, we will also issue you a doctoral candidacy form.

- You will earn your 72nd unit during the current term

You have completed all of your required and elective courses

- You have completed all three of your lab rotations and evaluations
- Have grades recorded for all of your units, except for the current quarter in progress.

6. Sign the candidacy form we give you, have your PI sign it, and bring it back to us. We will obtain the Program Director's signature and record your candidacy.

Congratulations, you are now a doctoral candidate!