

## **Policies Governing Participation of BGS Students in Certificate Programs**

Certificate programs provide students a valuable opportunity to pursue specialized scientific and professional interests. Several certificate programs are closely aligned, through design, with the standards and educational mission of BGS. These are Graduate Training in Medical Science, Public Health, and Environmental Health Sciences. Other certificate programs, i.e. those elsewhere within the Perelman School of Medicine, the University, and in some cases other institutions, are relevant as well. The following are policies governing participation of a BGS student in any certificate program.

- A student seeking to participate in a certificate program must be in good academic standing.
- The certificate program must not detract from or significantly prolong PhD training. Nor can the certificate program place an undue burden on the student, the student's thesis advisor, or the student's graduate group. An undue burden, or a fall from good academic standing, as judged by the graduate group would be cause for discontinuation of the program.
- The certificate program must relate to specialized expertise and/or professional development consistent with the objectives of training in BGS.
- Costs for courses provided through the certificate program, if originating at Penn, are not normally incurred if the courses are taken in Fall and Spring semesters through the normal Penn registration process. The student would bear the cost of courses taken at other times unless other arrangements are made.
- The student must provide to BGS the name of the certificate program, the link to its content, requirements, and reasons for choice of the program. The student must clearly delineate through how the requirements of the certificate can be incorporated into his or her schedule. The form must be signed by the thesis advisor, if applicable, and graduate group or program chair to indicate approval. Final approval is made by the Director of BGS.
- Courses offered through a certificate program cannot be assumed to help satisfy a graduate group's course requirements, including electives. This is the decision of the graduate group, based in turn on a determination by the BGS Curriculum Committee that the course units attained through a certificate program are equivalent to those of courses offered through BGS based on content and rigor.