Dissertation and dissertation defense
Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and education in BBH and Bioethics. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Dual-Title Ph.D. in Biobehavioral Health and Clinical and Translational Sciences
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs/).

Admission Requirements
Doctoral students with research and educational interests in clinical and translational science may apply for the Dual-Title Ph.D. degree in Biobehavioral Health and Clinical and Translational Sciences following admission to the Graduate School and Biobehavioral Health graduate degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the CTS dual-title program. Refer to the Admissions Requirements section of the CTS Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-sciences/). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in CTS prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

Degree Requirements
This dual-title degree program emphasizes interdisciplinary scholarship at the interface of basic sciences, clinical sciences, and human health. Students in the dual-title program are required to have two advisers from separate disciplines: one individual serving as the primary mentor in the graduate program in Biobehavioral Health and another individual serving as the secondary mentor in an area covered by the dual-title program who is a member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences faculty.

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in BBH, listed above. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in CTS, listed on the CTS Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-sciences/). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in CTS prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

Degree Requirements
This dual-title degree program emphasizes interdisciplinary scholarship at the interface of basic sciences, clinical sciences, and human health. Students in the dual-title program are required to have two advisers from separate disciplines: one individual serving as the primary mentor in the graduate program in Biobehavioral Health and another individual serving as the secondary mentor in an area covered by the dual-title program who is a member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences faculty.

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in BBH, listed above. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in CTS, listed on the CTS Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-sciences/). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in CTS prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

In accordance with Graduate Council policy, the qualifying examination committee must include at least one member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination which will include content from both the Graduate Program in Biobehavioral Health and the Clinical and Translational Sciences programs. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed on semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/), the Ph.D. committee of a Biobehavioral Health and Bioethics dual-title doctoral degree student must include at least one member of the Bioethics Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the committee is not also a member of the Bioethics Faculty, the member of the committee representing Bioethics must be appointed as co-chair. The faculty member (or members) affiliated with the Bioethics Program will be responsible for administering a portion of the comprehensive exam that will require the student to demonstrate an understanding of various theoretical and methodological approaches to bioethics, and an ability to apply them to issues and problems (including, where appropriate, practical problems) in their primary field.
Graduate Faculty in Clinical and Translational Sciences, the member of
the committee representing Clinical and Translational Sciences must be
appointed as co-chair. The fields of Biobehavioral Health and Clinical and
Translational Sciences will be integrated in the student’s comprehensive
examination. The CTS representative on the student’s Ph.D. committee
will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the
comprehensive examination.

All students are required to conduct dissertation research that
contributes fundamentally to the fields of Biobehavioral Health and
Clinical and Translational Sciences. Upon completion of the doctoral
dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the
dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be
accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and
the Graduate School.

Dual-Title Ph.D. in Biobehavioral Health and Social and
Behavioral Neuroscience

BBH doctoral students interested in having a degree that reflects
interdisciplinary training in social and behavioral neuroscience as
relevant to the domains of research expertise within BBH (e.g. integrating
neuroscience techniques and perspectives to understanding integrative
or interactive influences of biological, behavioral, psychological,
sociocultural, and environmental variables on health across time scales
and levels of analysis), may apply to pursue a dual-title Ph.D. in BBH and
Social and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Social behavioral neuroscience reflects the study of how brain
development and function influence, and are influenced by, social,
environmental, and behavioral variables. The dual-title Ph.D. program
provides students with additional training in an integrative neuroscience
program in order to enable them to pursue innovative interdisciplinary
research with intellectual sophistication.

Admission Requirements

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in BBH
and the Graduate School before they can be admitted to a dual-title
degree program. Applicants interested in the dual-title degree program
may note their interest in their applications to BBH. Students must apply
and be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience prior to taking the qualifying exam and must be in good
standing in the BBH program. Students admitted to the BBH program
will be admitted to the dual-title program in Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience upon the recommendation of a Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience Program faculty member in BBH.

Additional admissions requirements are listed in the Admissions
Requirements section of the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Bulletin
page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/social-
behavioral-neuroscience/).

Degree Requirements

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the
requirements of the Ph.D. in BBH, listed above. In addition, students
pursuing the dual-title Ph.D. in BBH and Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience must complete the degree requirements for the dual-
title Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Ph.D., listed on the Social
and Behavioral Neuroscience Bulletin page (https://bulletins.psu.edu/
graduate/programs/majors/social-behavioral-neuroscience/).

The Qualifying Examination committee for the dual-title degree will be
composed of Graduate Faculty from BBH and must include at least one
Graduate Faculty member from Social and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate
Faculty may serve in a combined role. The chair of the qualifying
examination committee must be a member of the Graduate Faculty
and an affiliated member of the SBN program or an affiliated member
may be appointed as a co-chair. There will be a single qualifying
examination, containing elements of both BBH and Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an
additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and,
therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester
beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D.
committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/
gcac/gcac-600/gcac-602-phd-committee-formation/), the Ph.D.
committee of a dual-title doctoral degree student must include at least
two members of the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate
Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’
Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the
committee representing BBH is not also a member of the Graduate
Faculty in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience, the member of the
committee representing Social and Behavioral Neuroscience must be
appointed as co-chair. It is expected that the outside member of the Ph.D.
committee serves as the second Social and Behavioral Neuroscience
representative. Exceptions (e.g. having both Social and Behavioral
Neuroscience committee members from within the home department)
must be approved by the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Steering
committee. The Social and Behavioral Neuroscience representative on
the student’s Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate
in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Ph.D. candidates must complete a dissertation on a topic that reflects
their original research and their education in both BBH and Social and
Behavioral Neuroscience. In order to earn the dual-title Ph.D. degree, the
dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the
graduate program, and the Graduate School, and the student must pass a
final oral examination (the dissertation defense).