

# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

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Courses offered by the Department of Developmental Biology are listed under the subject code DBIO on the *Stanford Bulletin's* ExploreCourses web site.

A fundamental problem in biology is how the complex set of multicellular structures that characterize an adult animal is generated from the fertilized egg. Recent advances at the molecular level, particularly with respect to the genetic control of development, have been explosive. These advances represent the beginning of a major movement in the biological sciences toward the understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying developmental decisions and the resulting morphogenetic processes. This new thrust in developmental biology derives from the extraordinary methodological advances of the past decade in molecular genetics, immunology, and biochemistry. However, it also derives from groundwork laid by the classical developmental studies, the rapid advances in cell biology and animal virology, and from models borrowed from prokaryotic systems. Increasingly, the work is directly related to human diseases, including oncogene function and inherited genetic disease.

The Department of Developmental Biology includes a critical mass of scientists who are leading the thrust in developmental biology and who can train new leaders in the attack on the fundamental problems of development. Department labs work on a wide variety of organisms from microbes to worms, flies, and mice. The dramatic evolutionary conservation of genes that regulate development makes the comparative approach of the research particularly effective. Scientists in the department labs have a very high level of interaction and collaboration. The discipline of developmental biology draws on biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, molecular biology, and genomics. People in the department have a major interest in regenerative medicine and stem cell biology.

The department is located in the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine within the Stanford University Medical Center.

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

University requirements for the M.S. are described in the "Graduate Degrees" section of this bulletin.

Students in the Ph.D. program in Developmental Biology may apply for an M.S. degree, assuming completion of their course requirements and preparation of a written proposal. The master's degree awarded by the Department of Developmental Biology does not include the possibility of minors for graduate students enrolled in other departments or programs.

Students are required to take, and satisfactorily complete, at least three lecture courses offered by the department, including 210, Developmental Biology. In addition, students are required to take three courses outside the department. Students are also expected to attend Developmental Biology seminars and journal clubs. In addition, the candidate must complete a research paper

proposing a specific experimental approach and background in an area of science relative to developmental biology.

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

University requirements for the Ph.D. are described in the "Graduate Degrees" section of this bulletin.

The graduate program in Developmental Biology leads to the Ph.D. degree. The department also participates in the Medical Scientists Training Program (MSTP) in which individuals are candidates for both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

Students are required to complete at least six courses, including Developmental Biology (210); Advanced Genetics (203); Frontiers in Biological Sciences (215); and an advanced molecular biology, biochemistry, or biophysics course. Students are expected to attend Developmental Biology seminars and journal clubs.

Completion of a qualifying examination is required for admission to Ph.D. candidacy. The examination consists of two parts. One proposal is on a subject different from the dissertation research and the other proposal is on the planned subject of the thesis. The final requirements of the program include presentation of a Ph.D. dissertation as the result of independent investigation and constituting a contribution to knowledge in the area of developmental biology. The student must pass the University oral examination, taken only after the student has substantially completed research. The examination is preceded by a public seminar in which the research is presented by the candidate. The oral examination is conducted by a dissertation reading committee.

## DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY (DBIO)

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### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

#### DBIO 156. Human Developmental Biology and Medicine

(Same as HUMBIO 141) The biological, medical, and social aspects of normal and abnormal human development. Topics: in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer; gene and cell therapy; gametogenesis; pattern formation in the nervous system and limb development; gene and grand multiple pregnancies; prematurity, in utero effects of teratogens; sex determination and differentiation; growth control; gigantism and dwarfism; neural tube defects; cardiac morphogenesis; progress in the developmental biology of humans. Limited enrollment. Prerequisites: Human Biology or Biology core, or consent of instructor.

*4 units, not given this year*

#### DBIO 199. Undergraduate Research

Students undertake investigations sponsored by individual faculty members. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

*1-18 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)*

### GRADUATE COURSES IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

#### DBIO 201. Development and Disease Mechanisms

Mechanisms that direct human development from conception to birth. Conserved molecular and cellular pathways regulate tissue and organ development; errors in these pathways result in congenital anomalies and human diseases. Topics: molecules regulating development, cell induction, developmental gene regulation, cell migration, programmed cell death, pattern formation, stem cells, cell lineage, and development of major organ systems. Emphasis on links between development and clinically significant topics including infertility, assisted reproductive technologies, contraception, prenatal diagnosis, multiparity, teratogenesis, inherited birth defects, fetal therapy, adolescence, cancer, and aging.

*4 units, Aut (Porzig, E; Kingsley, D; Kim, S)*

**DBIO 202. Assisted Reproductive Technologies**

(Same as OBGYN 202) Primary and current literature in basic and clinical science aspects of assisted reproductive technologies (ART), and demonstrations of current ART techniques including in vitro fertilization and embryo culture, and micromanipulation procedures such as intracytoplasmic sperm injection and embryo biopsy and cryopreservation. Class only may be taken for 1 unit. 2 units includes papers and attendance at clinical demonstrations. 3 units includes a term paper. Recommended: DBIO 201, or consent of instructors.

*1-3 units, Win (Porzig, E; Behr, B)*

**DBIO 203. Advanced Genetics**

(Same as BIO 203, GENE 203) For graduate students in Bioscience programs; may be appropriate for graduate students in other programs. The genetic toolbox. Examples of analytic methods, genetic manipulation, genome analysis, and human genetics. Emphasis is on use of genetic tools in dissecting complex biological pathways, developmental processes, and regulatory systems. Faculty-led discussion sections with evaluation of papers. Students with minimal experience in genetics should prepare by working out problems in college level textbooks.

*4 units, Aut (Stearns, T; Sidow, A; Barsh, G)*

**DBIO 210. Developmental Biology**

Current areas of research in developmental biology. How organismic complexity is generated during embryonic and post-embryonic development. The roles of genetic networks, induction events, cell lineage, maternal inheritance, cell-cell communication, and hormonal control in developmental processes in well-studied organisms such as vertebrates, insects, and nematodes. Team-taught. Students meet with faculty to discuss current papers from the literature. Prerequisite: graduate standing, consent of instructor. Recommended: familiarity with basic techniques and experimental rationales of molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics.

*5 units, Spr (Beachy, P; Fuller, M)*

**DBIO 215. Frontiers in Biological Research**

(Same as BIOC 215, GENE 215) Literature discussion in conjunction with the Frontiers in Biological Research seminar series in which investigators present current work. Students and faculty meet beforehand to discuss papers from the speaker's primary research literature. Students meet with the speaker after the seminar to discuss their research and future direction, commonly used techniques to study problems in biology, and comparison between the genetic and biochemical approaches in biological research.

*1 unit, Aut (Harbury, P; Calos, M; Villeneuve, A), Win (Harbury, P; Villeneuve, A; Calos, M)*

**DBIO 221. Current Issues in Aging**

(Same as GENE 221, NENS 221) Current research literature on genetic mechanisms of aging in animals and human beings. Topics include: mitochondria mutations, insulin-like signaling, sirtuins, aging in flies and worms, stem cells, human progeria, and centenarian studies. Prerequisite: GENE 203.

*2 units, Spr (Staff)*

**DBIO 257. The Biology of Stem Cells**

(Same as HUMBIO 157) The role of stem cells in human development and potential for treating disease. Guest lectures by biologists, ethicists, and legal scholars. Prerequisites: 2A,B, or consent of instructor.

*3 units, not given this year*

**DBIO 273A. A Computational Tour of the Human Genome**

(Same as BIOMEDIN 273A, CS 273A) Biology through an exploration of Human Genome. Key genomic and genetic concepts from an informatics perspective. Biomedical advances resulting from the Genomics revolution. Topics: genome sequencing: technologies, assembly, personalized sequencing. Functional landscape: genes, gene regulation, repeats, RNA genes. Genome evolution: comparative genomics, ultraconservation, co-option. Additional topics: population genetics, personalized genomics, and ancient DNA. Course starts with primer in Biology and text processing languages. Ends with guest lectures from forefront of genomic research.

*3 units, Aut (Batzoglou, S; Bejerano, G)*

**DBIO 296. Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine**

(Same as PATH 296) For graduate and medical students. Embryonic and adult stem cells, including origin, regulation, self-renewal, differentiation, fate, and relationship to cancer; biological mechanisms and methods to translate findings to therapeutic applications. Medical students must enroll for 5 units; graduate students may choose to take only the basic science part for 3 units. Prerequisites: DBIO 201 and 210, or consent of instructor.

*3-5 units, Win (Weissman, I; Nusse, R; Fuller, M)*

**DBIO 299. Directed Reading in Developmental Biology**

Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

*1-18 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)*

**DBIO 370. Medical Scholars Research**

Provides an opportunity for student and faculty interaction, as well as academic credit and financial support, to medical students who undertake original research. Enrollment is limited to students with approved projects.

*4-18 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)*

**DBIO 399. Graduate Research**

Students undertake investigations sponsored by individual faculty members. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

*1-18 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff), Sum (Staff)*

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