

FAQ - Beginning of Year Memo – Second Year of the EEB Graduate Program

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Use with: Grad guide ([pdf](#)) | tips for grad school ([pdf](#)) | mentoring guidelines ([pdf](#)) | [faq](#) for prelim #1 ([pdf](#))

Dear Second Year Students in EEB,

The academic year has begun! What should you be doing this year? Here are some thoughts for keeping on track, this year, with EEB program requirements (see also Table 1 and relevant pages of the Graduate Program Guide).

1. Keep progressing on your formal coursework!

In the ideal world, by the end of the 2nd semester of your 2nd year, you will have completed all of your formal coursework.

That is:

- your 20 credit EEB ‘major’,
- your 6-12 credit outside minor, and
- your three credit statistics class will become completed.

That total should include two brown bags and meet other requirements from the Graduate Program Guide ([pdf](#)) (i.e., you meet the ‘2 and 1 rule’, you follow the ‘4 and 6 rule’ if you use that, etc.).

Please keep track of your progress on coursework on the ‘Checklist for EEB Graduate Program’ ([doc](#)) which you want to maintain in your personal Sharepoint folder created for you ([link](#))

Remember to sign up for 12 credits each semester – if you take X course credits, take $12 - X$ credits of L800 Research.

Also, be sure to place these items in your personal Sharepoint folder ([link](#)):

- Forms for L500 or L501 credits in the EEB major, if so used and intended ([faq](#) | [form](#) for L500/L501 credit).
- Any documentation provided for your outside minor – you want that stored for candidacy time
- From your 1st year committee meeting: CV and IDP

Reminders:

- [form](#) for reports (email to the [Grad Advisor](#) and [EEB GPD](#)), upload to individual Sharepoint folders ([link](#))
- format for EEB committee meetings ([faq](#))
- form for individualized development plan ([form](#))

2. Qualifying Exam, Part 1: 'Breadth of Knowledge'

The big second year hurdle is your prelim. See section (3) of the Grad Program Guide, and this [faq](#) describes this exam in detail.

Some key reminders now:

- You must pass the exam by the 13th week of your fourth semester (including the retake provision),
- It is written and oral, but please read the guidelines carefully
- Your minor advisor must provide questions (but this minor advisor can be replaced on your committee after your exam, in year 3, if that is desirable).

Consult with your advisor about this, but many students talk with their committee members about their research interests and how possible questions on the exam might help to broaden thinking in a relevant way.

Your advisor must submit a report on the outcome of this exam ([form](#)) and save it in your individual student SharePoint folder ([link](#)). This report suffices for a second year committee meeting.

3. Application to Fellowships, Grants, etc.:

While not a formal 'requirement', it is an expectation that first, second, and third year students apply to any external, competitive fellowships that they are eligible for (outside of the University). Some examples of NSF GRFPs, IAS, Sigma Xi, etc., can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about second year requirements, the graduate program, etc., please do not hesitate to contact us.