

# Innovative Programs

Victoria H. Freedman



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures

---

Learn

---

Serve

---

Lead



Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# **GREAT Group:** ***“Meeting the Challenge”***

*Saturday, October 20, 2007*

## **INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS**

- Albert Einstein College of Medicine - Graduate Division of Biomedical Sciences
- Vanderbilt University School of Medicine – Biomedical Research Education and Training
- University of Florida College of Medicine – Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences
- Gerstner Sloan-Kettering Graduate School
- New York University Medical Center – Graduate Biomedical Sciences





# Questions to ponder:

1. **What is the overall structure of the program?**
  - a. How are students admitted to the program?
  - b. First year graduate student experience
  - c. What kind of qualifying exam is administered? Is the exam department-based or central?
  - d. Are there core courses or required courses
  
2. **What advantages does this program have for the faculty? For the administration?**



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

3. **Has the program affected recruitment, retention, graduation rates, or job placement rates?**
4. **Does the umbrella program enhance or detract from relationships with the home institution?**
5. **What gaps may be inherent in a centralized program?**
6. **Is there a particular outcome or result that reflects the power of the “umbrella” approach?**

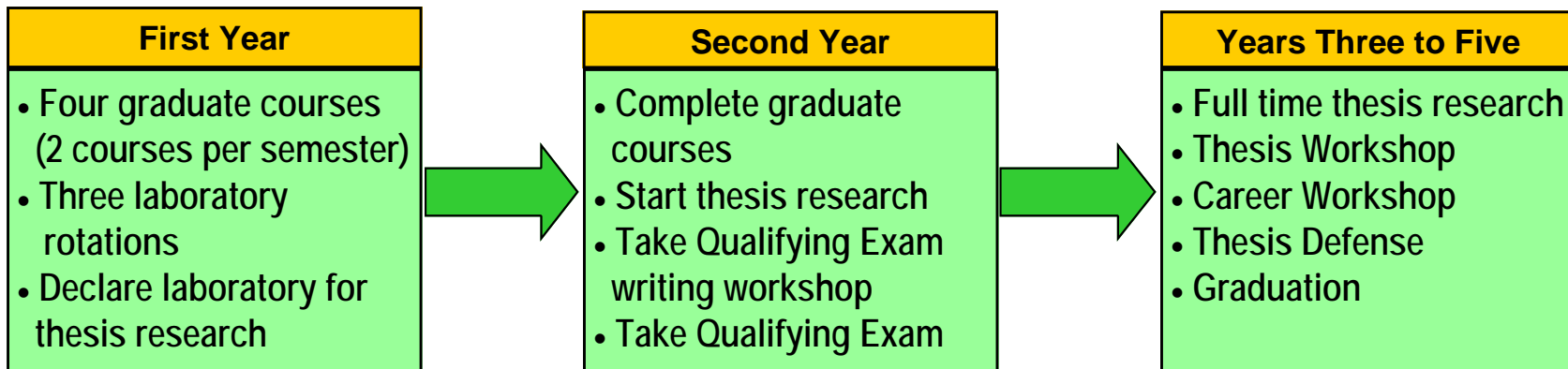


ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# Five Year Plan to a PhD





# GRADUATE DIVISION

# CENTRALIZED ROLES

1. **Central recruitment and admissions process**
2. **Student matriculation and management through a database (BANNER)**
3. **Program-wide student orientation**
4. **Program-wide benchmarks to monitor student progress to the PhD**
5. **Program-wide uniform qualifying exam (at end of 2nd year)**
6. **Program-wide RCR training**
7. **Centralized student advising**
  - a. **Course advising and registration**
  - b. **Qual exam preparation**
  - c. **Thesis preparation**
  - d. **Career advising**



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# Departmental Roles

1. **Student's laboratory "home"**
2. **Journal clubs**
3. **Special (scientific) interest groups**
4. **Guest Speaker Seminars**
5. **Works-in-progress**
6. **Scientific retreats**
7. **Scientific progress monitored by dept. education committee**



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# SUMMARY

# PhD Applications

YEAR	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	ACCEPTED APPLICATIONS	MATRICULATING STUDENTS
2003	230	96	51
2004	274	114	51
2005	314	98	50
2006	296	96	34
2007	346	113	52



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS** IN THE  
**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# PhD STUDENTS BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07
Anatomy & Structural Biology	23	27	28	30	29
Biochemistry	23	24	23	24	21
Cell Biology	40	33	34	30	28
Clinical Investigation	-	-	-	-	2
Developmental Molecular Biology	43	38	43	33	27
Microbiology & Immunology	56	57	61	65	49
Molecular Genetics	38	35	30	30	30
Molecular Pharmacology	28	25	27	25	22
Neuroscience	38	37	41	42	43
Pathology	14	12	16	22	18
Physiology & Biophysics	13	17	19	20	25
<i>First Year Undeclared Students</i>	34	39	48	39	52
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>346</b>



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**



# Advantages and Disadvantages

## Advantages

### Central administration of student progression through the program

- Recruitment
- Admissions
- Course administration and registration
- Qualifying examination
- Thesis defense
- Graduation

### Students and Faculty

- Uniform standards and requirements
- Support mechanisms
- Light at the end of the tunnel

**Graduate Division has clear identity within the institution**



## Disadvantages

### Faculty

- Less departmental-based focus
- Curriculum-related challenges
- No required courses
- No core curriculum



ALBERT  
**EINSTEIN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN THE  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**