



What is PiBBS?

The *Program in Interdisciplinary Biology and Biomedical Science* is a cross-departmental, college and institutional (SFI, LANL, UNM) collaboration of students and faculty interested in interdisciplinary biological research. The impetus for the program was the recognition that progress on fundamental problems in biology requires the input of new ideas, methodologies, and investigative strategies from other disciplines, in particular, the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics. By offering unique and interdisciplinary training opportunities to graduate students, PiBBS aims to produce scientists that think broadly, deeply and creatively across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

PiBBS is currently developing a cohesive curriculum that will lead to a concentration in *Integrative Biology* as a formal recognition of participation in the program. Students will receive disciplinary Ph.D.'s in affiliated departments, but will take a core set of additional classes and participate in other activities designed to produce a highly interactive community of interdisciplinary scholars.

How do I get involved?

There are two levels of involvement. Students can become “*PiBBS affiliates*” by simply enrolling and participating in PiBBS courses and activities. Affiliates are eligible for *Student Enrichment Opportunity* awards, able to propose and participate in Focus Groups, and other social and scientific activities of PiBBS. They do not, however, receive stipend support, nor do they earn a concentration in *Integrative Biology*. Students interested in becoming fellows of the program apply (typically at the end of their first year) and if accepted, will generally receive two years of stipend support. They are required to enroll and participate fully in the curriculum throughout their graduate career, and will earn a concentration in integrative Biology. They are of course also eligible for *Student Enrichment Opportunity* awards, Focus Groups, and other funding. Fellows are also offered office space in PiBBS facilities.

What does PiBBS provide?

PiBBS Fellows are supported initially for one year; a second year of funding is contingent on satisfactory progress. The typical Stipend is ~\$21,000 yr, plus tuition and health care; additional funds are available for summer school, training programs and other activities (see <http://www.unm.edu/~PIBBS/> for further information).

What are the requirements for PiBBS fellows?

PiBBS fellows must meet certain requirements to stay in the program. First, they are required to take a core set of courses devised with the specific aim of developing a common baseline of mathematical, computational and biological knowledge and skills necessary for successful interdisciplinary collaborations. Because all courses are cross-listed with affiliated departments, these generally count towards departmental obligations for the Ph.D. Second, fellows are required to create an interdisciplinary doctoral committee, with either co-mentorship or active participation by faculty from two or more different departments, including biology. Third, fellows are expected to participate in internships and summer courses at institutions and laboratories outside of UNM, with funding provided largely by PiBBS. Finally, fellows are expected to develop and participate in a research collaborative team.

How to apply

Graduate students can self-identify or be nominated by faculty in departments affiliated with PiBBS. In either case, a nomination letter by the advisor is accompanied by the students' application packet (CV, statement of interests, standardized test scores, and undergraduate and graduate transcripts). For students already enrolled at UNM, the nomination letter is also accompanied by a current research statement. PiBBS fellows are selected by an advisory committee drawn from various representatives of the participating departments. . Please see <http://www.unm.edu/~PIBBS/> for further information, or contact either of the Program Directors (Drs. J.H. Brown or F.A. Smith) or Program Manager (Ms. Fornessa T. Randal, 505.277.9337) in the department of Biology.