

BMS Student Responsibilities Guide 2025-26

Communications

BMS graduate students must use their official @health.ucsd.edu email addresses for all UCSD correspondence.

Enrollment

From the Educational Policy Committee <https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/131596/graduate-student-petitions-requesting-exceptions-winter-2015.pdf>

Students are expected to know and adhere to the policies and deadlines set in the Senate Regulations. EPC firmly believes that it is a (undergraduate and graduate) student's responsibility to know the requirements for their degree and the deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, request incompletes, change grading options, etc., for their courses. EPC also believes that it is a student's responsibility to know how to add, drop, withdraw, request incompletes, change grading options, etc., for their courses, and to implement these actions correctly. The petitions procedures address the specific needs of students facing unusual circumstances. Requests for exceptions to these policies and deadlines without good cause and supporting documentation are not permitted.

BMS students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units of Graduate level courses each quarter

Graduate Enrollment: <https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/enroll/graduate-enrollment/index.html>

Enrolling in Classes: <https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/enroll/index.html>

Required BMS courses: <https://biomedsci.ucsd.edu/curriculum/index.html>

Enrollment Calendar: <https://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html>

Academic Calendar: <https://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/resources/academic/calendars/index.html>

It is the student's responsibility to enroll by the established [deadlines](#) every quarter. (See Enrollment & Academic Calendars above). This includes ensuring that you are enrolled in the following:

- Correct Course Subject (BIOM, PHAR, MED, etc.)
- Correct Course Number
- Correct Section ID for 298 & 299 – *This is the section with your thesis advisor as instructor. If your thesis advisor is not listed, please contact Patricia Luetmer, pluetmer@health.ucsd.edu so she can add them into the schedule of classes.*
- Correct Grading Option (S/U or Letter)
- Correct Number of Units

*******Check your TritonLink account both *after* you have registered and *before* the 3rd week of classes to ensure that you are enrolled correctly.*******

Instructions for making enrollment changes up to Week 10 can be found here:
[https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/exams-grades-transcripts/grades/change-grading-grad.html#Weeks-5-to-10-\(grading-option\)](https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/exams-grades-transcripts/grades/change-grading-grad.html#Weeks-5-to-10-(grading-option))

Retroactive changes to enrollment (after week 10)

Requests may **only** be approved in cases where:

1. The student clearly attempted to add or withdraw from the course by the deadline but technical problems with TritonLink prevented the proper processing of the request;
2. Serious personal circumstances (e.g. hospitalization) prevented the student from adding or withdrawing on TritonLink or in person prior to the deadline.

Grades

From the Educational Policy Committee <https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/131596/graduate-student-petitions-requesting-exceptions-winter-2015.pdf>:

Students are responsible for monitoring their academic record regularly and maintaining its integrity. It is a student's responsibility to make sure that their academic record is accurate and current, and to promptly address any discrepancies or problems with their academic record. The Committee recommends that students check their academic record on a quarterly basis to confirm that the record correctly reflects their academic achievements. Except in very unusual circumstances, requests to "clean-up" an academic record after the specified deadlines to submit petitions will be denied.

Check your TritonLink account *at the end of* each quarter to ensure your grades have been submitted. *It is your responsibility to contact the instructor if a grade is missing.*

Grades not entered will lapse to U or F after one quarter. Any student with more than 8 units of "U" and/or "F" grades or a GPA less than a 2.0 will have a hold placed on their registration for the next available quarter. This may also impact your eligibility for health insurance coverage.

Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing is determined by meeting departmental and graduate studies standards; a GPA of 3.0 or above, in upper-division, graduate and professional course work; satisfactory spring evaluation; and having no more than a total of eight units of "F" and/or "U" grades.

Good Academic Standing is a requirement for:

1. Holding academic and staff appointments.
2. Receiving fellowship, scholarship, or traineeship appointments.
3. Advancing to candidacy for a graduate degree.
4. Participating in UC Intercampus Exchange.
5. Going on a leave of absence.
6. Obtaining a graduate degree from UC San Diego.

Graduate students who are not in good academic standing for any reason are subject to probation and/or disqualification from further graduate study.

Rotations

- The first rotation must be with a BMS program faculty member listed in the BMS faculty directory: <https://biomedsci.ucsd.edu/faculty/>. 6-week rotations are recommended but students can choose to conduct rotations of either 6 or 12 weeks in length.
- Students must participate in rotations throughout their first year, unless they have identified a thesis advisor and entered their laboratory.
- The duration of each rotation will be determined by agreement between the student and the rotation advisor prior to the onset of the rotation.
- Students must complete at least two rotations with BMS faculty members. Rotations with non-BMS faculty members that have a UCSD academic appointment are allowed, contingent on the approval of the student's A-SPAC advisor and the BMS Chair.
- Leanne will send the rotation agreement forms to rotation advisors for completion with a copy sent to the student and A-SPAC Advisor.
- Students can enter a thesis laboratory as early as the end of the Winter quarter (March 30, 2026) after completing two quarters of rotations. For example, four 6-week rotations, two 12-week rotations, or some combination thereof.
- Students must enter laboratories of their thesis advisors by the end of their first Spring quarter (June 30, 2026, for students entering in Fall 2025). The BMS program limits student support through the end of their first academic year (June 30, 2026, for students entering in Fall 2025).
- Exceptions to the rotation program policy require the approval of the A-SPAC advisor and BMS Chair.

Funding

All BMS graduate students in good standing are eligible for full financial support. The BMS stipend level for 2025/26 is \$44,964/annually, \$3,747/monthly. All students are funded at this same rate unless they have an outside award that provides a higher stipend level.

If you are over or underpaid do not wait to let Cierra Weaver, c5weaver@health.ucsd.edu in the BMS office know so the necessary corrections can be made. Any amount that is over-paid must be returned to the university.

Students are paid from a variety of different sources and distributed as either salary or stipend payments.

- Salary payments are issued via UCPATH <http://ucpath.ucsd.edu>
- Stipend payments are issued through the Student Aid Management System.

There are two units that provide direct deposit to graduate students, depending upon the type of transaction:

- **Student Financial Solutions** <https://sfs.ucsd.edu/student-accounts/direct-deposit.html> (stipend payments for domestic students and account refunds)
- **Payroll** <https://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/hr/divisions-units/data/hr-payroll/index.html> (UCPath ASE, GSR, and any other student employment paychecks)

Stipend Payments for International Students:

International students who are expecting a stipend payment should sign-up for direct deposit with both Student Financial Solutions and Disbursements and also should note they will be prompted to complete a Glacier record in order to determine appropriate taxation.

- **Student Financial Solutions**, <https://sfs.ucsd.edu/student-accounts/direct-deposit.html>
- **Disbursements**, <https://blink.ucsd.edu/buy-pay/payments/payment-options/employee-direct-deposit/index.html>

Taxes

Graduate student salary and stipend payments are considered fully taxable income.

- **Stipend** payments are considered Taxable income
- Federal and State taxes are not withheld upfront
- You can make estimated quarterly tax payments to the IRS via the 1040ES form: <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-1040-es>
- Tuition & Fees including Health Insurance are not considered taxable income
- 1098-t Issued in January for Tax Filing purposes: <https://sfs.ucsd.edu/student-accounts/1098-t.html>
- **Salary** payments issued through UCPath have Federal and State taxes withheld and you will receive a W2 at the end of the tax year.

Obtaining California Residency for Tuition Purposes

In order to be sure you'll meet the eligibility criteria, you should begin the process of becoming a California resident at least one year before the quarter you are seeking a reclassification. Instructions on how to change your nonresident status to resident can be found at <http://students.ucsd.edu/finances/fees/residence/status-change.html>. For questions, contact the **Residence Deputy**, residence deputy@ucsd.edu. **No other University personnel are authorized to supply information relative to residence requirements for tuition.**