

# Doctor of Philosophy Board

AY 22/23 Report



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY



## Doctor of Philosophy Board Members for AY 22/23

### Faculty Members:

Katherine Clegg Smith • Professor, Health, Behavior and Society; Vice Dean for Faculty | BSPH  
 Judy Bass • Professor, Mental Health | BSPH  
 Brendan Daley • Associate Professor, Economics | KSAS  
 Jonah Erlebacher • Professor, Materials Science and Engineering | WSE  
 Peter Espenshade • Professor, Cell Biology; Associate Dean, Graduate Biomedical Education | SOM  
 Hunter Gehlbach • Professor, Education | SOE (Spring 2023)  
 Devesh Kapur • Professor, South Asian Studies | SAIS  
 Theodore Lewis • Professor, Near Eastern Studies | KSAS  
 Sean Prigge • Professor, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology | BHPH  
 Trina Schroer • Professor, Biology | KSAS  
 Amy Shelton • Professor and Associate Dean for Research | SOE (Fall 2022)  
 Jennifer Wenzel • Associate Professor, Nursing | SON

### PhD Student Members:

Nathan Storey • Education | SOE  
 Julie Ward • Health Policy and Management | BSPH  
 Michael Wilkinson • Mechanical Engineering | WSE

### Staffed by:

Nancy Kass • Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education  
 Julie Nadel • Director of Graduate Education | Office of the Provost

## Programs reviewed by the Doctor of Philosophy Board in AY 22/23

Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology (SOM)  
 Program in Molecular Biophysics (KSAS/SOM)  
 Health Policy and Management (BSPH)  
 Chemical Biology (KSAS)  
 Comparative Thought and Literature (KSAS)  
 Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (WSE)  
 International Studies (SAIS)  
 History (KSAS)  
 Psychological and Brain Sciences (KSAS)  
 Clinical Investigation (BSPH)



## Outcomes of AY 22/23 program review

- Seven (7) programs received recommendations with a request for a one-year follow-up report
- Three (3) programs received recommendations with a request for a six-month follow-up report

*While most programs reviewed by the DPB are performing well, all programs receive recommendations for continued improvement in PhD education.*

## Issues most frequently raised in DPB PhD program reviews in AY 22/23

- **Issues of student satisfaction with advising and mentoring**, including a need for students to have access to faculty beyond their primary advisor and to meet with additional faculty members, such as a thesis advisory committee, without the advisor present
- **Concerns with support for cross-departmental and cross-divisional programs**, including faculty participation in program leadership and teaching responsibilities, funding, and infrastructure needs, such as standardizing administrative procedures
- **Ineffective communication with program faculty** about program goals and concerns
- **Need for systematic mechanisms for student feedback to improve the PhD program**, including formal avenues for students to give feedback at least annually beyond communications with their advisors and including students in committees and discussions around program design
- **Program climate issues**, including student satisfaction scores on PhD exit survey, need for additional mental health support for students, and need for student cohort development and community building
- **Need for intentional circulation of information to students and mentoring faculty** around mental health and wellbeing resources, university ombuds office, and universitywide policies to support students
- **Need for additional support for students with interests in non-academic careers**, including creating a culture where students feel comfortable speaking about their career interests with their advisors, enthusiastic promotion and utilization of PDCO and PHutures programming, and systematic tracking of student career outcomes
- **Outdated or unclear PhD student handbooks** and need to include key universitywide policies

## Conferral

- The DPB voted to approve conferral for
  - 172 students in August 2022
  - 141 students in December 2022
  - 231 students in May 2023

## Requests for exceptions to University wide requirements for the PhD

- **Time to degree exceptions**: One student in KSAS (approved)
- **Posthumous degree request** in line with requirements outlined in the university's posthumous degree policy: (approved)

## Other DPB business in AY 22/23

- Six (6) follow up reports reviewed from DPB reviews in AY 21/22
- The Board discussed themes from DPB reviews and emerging best practices and ongoing concerns
- Continued refinement of the review process and the accompanying documents and resources