Guidelines for
BMIF 318a-318b Research Rotation in Biomedical Informatics

Research Rotation in Biomedical Informatics: BMIF 318a and 318b form a 2 semester sequence of 1-credit research rotations that are required of all MS and PhD students in the Biomedical Informatics Degree Program. Students will perform research under the direction of a rotation advisor. Two different research rotations are required to be completed in the first year of graduate study.

Choosing a research rotation advisor and project: For 318a, students are encouraged to meet with a wide variety of faculty members during August to learn about potential research project opportunities. In consultation with the Director of Educational Programs, a student will use the information learned from these meetings to select a rotation advisor (and project) for the first research rotation. Rotation advisor consent and approval of the Director of Educational Programs is required. This final approval must occur no later than the second Monday of the semester. For 318b, a rotation advisor and project may be determined anytime during the Fall Semester and no later than the second Monday of the Spring Semester.

Duration of rotation: 12 weeks to begin during week 2 of the semester and end no later than December 1 in the Fall Semester and April 10 in the Spring Semester for 2006-2007 academic year. It is imperative that rotations end on time to allow student to focus on final exams at the end of the semester, provide a solid basis for evaluation of the student's performance for grading purposes, and to facilitate the student's clean transition to a second rotation or the next phase of their research endeavors.

Scope of rotation project: A minimum of 5 hours per week will be devoted to research rotations. Students may elect to spend more time conducting this research project but the scope of the project should be compatible with completion in 60 hours.

Requirements: A written proposal (minimum 1-2 pages) and final report (minimum 5 pages) are required; the latter is due on the last day of the rotation.

Evaluation of performance: Course grading will be a letter grade reflective of the rotation advisor's assessment of the student's knowledge of the project, including mastery of project-related literature, relevant research methods, and the skills required for the project. These skills include communication, collaboration, and professionalism within a research environment.

Advice on choosing a research mentor:
http://bret.mc.vanderbilt.edu/career_development/html/choosing_mentor.htm