BB Program review excerpts:

Another problem that is strictly administrative has to do with how credit hours are used. A credit hour model is used in which credit hours are counted to make budgetary decisions and this seems counterproductive. Forcing students to take courses just to meet a mandated credit hour requirement is folly and not in the best interest of your students. In fact, the committee felt that fewer courses (credits) beyond the three required courses in biochemistry and the three required courses in biophysics should be required from the students so they can focus on their research as early as possible during their time in graduate school.

• Recommendation #11: Minimize the number of courses required of graduate students. In a Ph. D. program the real learning takes place in the research laboratory. The number of required courses should be kept in check, and under no circumstances should the number of credit hours be used to give shape to programmatic requirements. This is not in the student’s best interests.

BB Action plan excerpt:

Recommendation #11: Minimize the number of courses required of graduate students
In a Ph. D. program the real learning takes place in the research laboratory. The number of required courses should be kept in check, and under no circumstances should the number of credit hours be used to give shape to programmatic requirements. This is not in the student’s best interests.

Goal: Limit the number of required non-blanket credits to 27.

Actions: Compared to other programs nationwide OSU requires what is considered an excessive number of courses from all graduate students. This reduces our ability to compete in recruiting students and also increases the residence time in the program. The BBGP will seek a variance through the appropriate channels similar to the solution that was found for the Graduate Program in Chemistry.

Metric: Number of credits required for completing a BB doctoral degree.

Fall 2018 target for metric: Only 27 non-blanket credits will be required for completing a doctoral degree in the BBGP.