

UGA -GENETICS PROGRAM PRACTICES

Questions 1A, 1B - Communication with Potential Doctoral Students

Questions 2A, 2B – Admission

Questions 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D – Orientation and Advisement

Questions 4A, 4B – Social Interactions

Questions		Answers
1A	When potential graduate students contact your department for information, who handles the inquiries? (Please provide the title rather than names)	Graduate Coordinator and/or Graduate Assistant (secretarial assistant to the graduate coordinator)
1B	What type of information is usually sent in response to such inquiries?	Email pointer to web site and/or brochure, plus email answers to specific queries
2A	Who in your department makes the decision about which applicants to admit (or to recommend for admission)? (Please provide the title rather than names).	Graduate Affairs Committee (seven faculty members)
2B	What criteria are used in making this decision?	GRE, GPA, 3 letters, research experience, personal statement, and for domestic applicants, a visit to the UGA campus
3A	How does your department orient new students to graduate study?	Each student has a student buddy and a preliminary faculty advisor. First year students carry out four half-semester rotations.
3B	Who handles initial course advisement for new doctoral students, and how is that person selected?	Preliminary faculty advisor chosen based on match of academic interests, graduate buddy, and other more senior graduate students (through informal interactions)
3C	Describe the process by which a student selects or is assigned a dissertation chair.	After 1 year of courses and rotations in labs, student meets with desired advisor and if both are agreeable, that person will become the major professor.
3D	Can students in your department change dissertation chairs? If so, how is that change accomplished?	Yes. Typically, if an advisor is not working out, students will approach other potential advisors and if someone else is willing to take the student on, they will also discuss this with the graduate coordinator and then the switch is made. About one student in ten (a guesstimate)

		switches advisors, and this does not generally lead to any friction between faculty, or between students and faculty.
4A	Other than formal coursework, do your department offer, sponsor, or support activities designed to foster social support and/or collaborative learning among doctoral students? (e.g., study groups, student organizations, student-student mentoring programs) If so, please describe.	There are many avenues, including 1) weekly student seminar, where a student or two students will present research; 2) informal journal clubs organized by students; 3) 'Population Genetics Group'--another weekly seminar series primarily run by and for grad students; 4) Regular lab meetings.
4B	Does your department hold regular social activities in which students can interact informally with faculty members and other students? If so, please describe	Every 2nd Wed of the month, all members of the department are invited to a social hour at the end of the day. In my own opinion, this is actually one of the weaker aspects of interaction--there tends to be relatively less social interaction, especially of the sort that involves both students and faculty, than in many other departments with which I have been associated.