

UGA - MICROBIOLOGY 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)	Degree Program Assistant
1B	What type of information is usually sent in response to such inquiries?	Answers to specific questions; general information about the program & Athens; url for the department and university websites; contact information for the graduate coordinator and the graduate coordinator assistant; application procedures.
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-4 faculty members. Decisions are made after all faculty members have reviewed application folders & provided comments
2B	What criteria are used in making this decision?	Background in microbiology and previous research experience; grades; test scores; letters of recommendation; background and interest form completed by the applicant; in-person interview or phone interview (we invite top applicants to visit the department in mid-February)
3A	How does your department orient new students to graduate study?	We have an orientation session; we have graduate students host get-togethers; we have a Web CT site for enrolled students that applicants gain access to following confirmation of plans to enroll; we have email contact between faculty, grad students and new students; MGSA (Microbiology Grad Student Association) contact
3B	Who handles initial course advisement for new doctoral students, and how is that person selected?	Faculty member hosting the student's first rotation. The student selects this faculty member with approval of the faculty

		member.
3C	Describe the process by which a student selects or is assigned a dissertation chair.	They complete 2-3 lab rotations lasting for several weeks in different laboratories. By December of the first semester, the student with approval of the faculty member makes a decision on their major advisor. Students learn about different lab options through a series of faculty presentations, websites, and journal articles as well as one-to-one meetings.
3D	Can students in your department change dissertation chairs? If so, how is that change accomplished?	Although it is not very common, if a student is dissatisfied with a lab choice, every effort is made to help the student. If a student wishes to change labs and the faculty agree, a change can be made. However, this has not happened in recent years.
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.	We have open houses, receptions for speakers, ice cream socials, announce seminars for other UGA departments, we support MGSA activities by participating and advertising them, we have a bulletin board to share publications and news and electronic notices to share news by email and website. We have a departmental holiday party, receptions for graduating students, department hosted lunches & students are invited to have lunch with seminar speakers. Graduate students select and host seminar speakers.
4B	Does your department hold regular social activities in which students can interact informally with faculty members and other students? If so, please describe	Activities described above are hosted throughout the year, but not on a specific week-to-week or month-to-month basis.