

## UGA - PLANT BIOLOGY 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

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>	
1A	When potential graduate students contact your department for information, who handles the inquiries? (Please provide the title rather than names)	Administrative Coordinator
1B	What type of information is usually sent in response to such inquiries?	A letter from the department, a letter from the Plant Biology Graduate Student Association, and a pamphlet from the department.
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).	A five member Graduate Studies Committee (Graduate Coordinator, Professors, Associate Professors)
2B	What criteria are used in making this decision?	Overall GPA, GRE scores, reference letters, and faculty interest/space availability in lab/program.
3A	How does your department orient new students to graduate study?	We have a group advising day where all new students are divided into two groups and advised together so all students benefit from questions asked. The Plant Biology students are also great in contacting new students and welcoming them to the Department. The Department hosts a new student reception the Monday following the start of Fall Semester and introduces all new students and their area of interest.
3B	Who handles initial course advisement for new doctoral students, and how is that person selected?	Three evolution/ecology faculty advise new evolution/ecology students as a group and three cellular/molecular faculty advise new cellular/molecular students as a group. The selected faculty is chosen by the Department Head.
3C	Describe the process by which a	Potential students correspond directly with

	student selects or is assigned a dissertation chair.	faculty before entering our program. Most evolution/ecology students know whom they want to work with before they are admitted. Cellular/Molecular students also correspond with faculty, but are encouraged to do lab rotations in several faculty labs before selecting an advisor or research project.
3D	Can students in your department change dissertation chairs? If so, how is that change accomplished?	Yes, students are allowed to change dissertation chairs if their research changes direction and is more in line with another faculty member. The student will consult with current advisor, prospective advisor, and Graduate Coordinator. Once arrangements with new advisor have been made and project outlined, the office will be notified of an advisor change.
4A	Other than formal coursework, does 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.	Student Symposium, Plant Biology Graduate Student Association, Plant Ecology Group 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	NO ANSWER PROVIDED