

**SELF-ASSESSMENT - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
UGA- PLANT BIOLOGY**

Condition #1: *The right people apply for doctoral study.*

Condition #2: *The right applicants are admitted as doctoral students*

Condition #3: *Students and faculty form productive working relationships*

Condition #4: *Students experience social support from fellow students*

Conditions	Goals /Activities	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most potential applicants use the department website to obtain information about the program and about faculty and their research. To communicate the most effective information faculty websites should be regularly updated with ‘attractive’ information. • The Departmental website should be improved with updated departmental (and specifically graduate student) news, recent grants, significant papers, awards, etc. • More advertising of the department would help make more potential applicants aware of our programs. Faculty should think of recruitment when at national meetings and when giving seminars at other institutions. Perhaps directing presentations at target schools would be strategic. • We are somewhat limited as to the specific laboratories where potential applicants might find an active research home. Several of our older faculty are retiring or not taking new students. We need to replace with new faculty with active research programs. This goal will take many years as it depends on upper administration position return decisions. • We should indicate on the departmental website those faculty who are taking new students and those who are not taking new students. 	<p>Within 2 years</p> <p>Within 2 years</p> <p>Within 2 years</p> <p>This goal will take many years as it depends on upper administration position return decisions.</p>
2	Most faculty think we are doing a good job at recruiting for	Not applicable

	<p>graduate students and that our admission criteria are appropriate. We use GPA and GRE test scores along with a measure of the undergrad institution quality along with reference letters and potential 'fit' with existing faculty research programs. For domestic student applicants we have a recruiting weekend in February when all applicants of interest are brought to UGA to meet and talk with faculty and students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our recruiting weekend well for domestic applicants, but we are unable to personally interview international applicants. For these we must rely on scores, personal statements and letters of recommendation. • As there is no easy solution to personal interviews for international students we have no concrete recommendations beyond what is presently employed. (A recruiting trip by two section faculty members to China several years ago was not successful in attracting more or better students than the present procedures) 	
3	<p>As working relationships between faculty and students are often very individualized, it is difficult to generalize about this condition, but certain guidelines may prove to be helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most critical general phenomenon related to condition #3 is that students need to be encouraged to move through their program in an efficient manner. This includes the scheduling of written and oral exams to allow students to advance to candidacy by the beginning of their third year. Students who are moving through their program at a slow rate need to be better monitored by their research committees or by the Graduate Studies Committee. • The department has annual evaluations prepared by the major professor in consultation with each student. Typically there is little follow through with these annual reports. This vehicle is in place as a potential monitoring device for student progress. 	Two to three years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab rotations are encouraged for new students, a major professor is then chosen from among the faculty, but this is not well explained on our website. • The Plant Biology Graduate Coordinator is available for discussion with students if problems arise with a major advisor. 	
4	<p>In the past there has been some separation between international and domestic students and between students in different disciplines, but that is changing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially, international students are mixing more now with domestic students and participating in departmental functions more than a few years ago. • It is possible that the department could offer more opportunities for socialization. 	Under consideration