

**SELF-ASSESSMENT - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
UF BOTANY**

**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*

<b>Conditions</b>	<b>Goals /Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1	<p>We will improve our program's web site in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change the data on the first page of our website so that our graduate program appears in Google searches of the UF web site and in internet searches for ecology, systematics, and plant molecular biology.</li> <li>2. To help prospective students evaluate their readiness for graduate school we will add a page about financial and time demands of graduate school with links to information about cost of living.</li> <li>3. To better inform prospective and current students about program and our expectations, on our web site we will:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the program descriptions and feature the advantages of our interdisciplinary department;</li> <li>• Add programs of study with links to courses;</li> <li>• Add a description of the application and admission process;</li> <li>• Add timelines for appointing advisory committees, holding committee meetings, and taking preliminary exams; and</li> <li>• Add a description of departmental seminar program and expectation that students will participate</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Summer 2006
2	<p><b>No changes are needed in admission policies.</b> Improvements are needed in recruitment of students. As stated in #1 we will improve the information given on our web site and do better advertising of our department there. This year we are establishing a set time at which we will interview prospective students on campus. This will allow the department to formalize the interview procedure and</p>	NA

	“sell” the department	
3	<p>We reinstated a course for new students in which they met all of the faculty and staff of the department. The meetings were held in the labs and offices. Faculty members described their research to the students and introduced them to members of their labs. Staff members discussed departmental facilities and procedures. This course provided a means for the students to get to know the faculty and staff and to establish a productive working relationship.</p> <p>We will build on the previous strategies by adding information to the graduate student handbook about what to expect in the advisor/advisee relationship. In 2006 Fall semester, we will make sure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Students and faculty know that problems can be discussed with the graduate coordinator;</li> <li>2- Discussion of problems will not affect the student’s or faculty’s status in the department; and</li> <li>3- Graduate coordinator is available to help resolve conflicts.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Completed Fall 2005</b></p> <p>Fall 2006</p>
4	<p>The course described in #3b serves to let each year’s new students get to know each other. Also in the Fall of 2005 we began strong encouragement of all students and faculty to attend the weekly departmental seminars and the associated refreshment period, as this is the only regularly scheduled event that all members of the department attend, and which provides a time for social interaction.</p> <p>To encourage participation of everyone in other departmental social events, in the Spring of 2006 we will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form a committee of students and faculty to oversee the annual picnic and other social gatherings, such as receptions for seminar speakers, fall orientation, and holiday party. The job of the committee is not to be the caterers for all of these occasions, but to help organize the events, make sure that they are advertised, and encourage the participation of students and faculty.</li> <li>2. Begin having some monthly informal</li> </ol>	<p>Spring 2006</p>

	<p>gatherings, each one hosted by one of three programs.</p> <p>3. Have discussions among the faculty and with students to try to come to a satisfactory resolution to the situation with the graduate student stipends.</p>	
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