

**SELF-ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY OF GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
NCSU - 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*

Condition	Goals/Activities	Timeline
#1	<p>Invite more widespread, informed interest in the Department and communicate the most effective information to potential applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve navigational tools on the department website. • Highlight the quality of the program and specifically graduate student news, recent grants, significant papers, etc. within the Graduate Program website • Keep faculty websites interesting and current to better represent the research interests of the program's faculty. • Advertise the successes of current graduate students and alumni by featuring them on our webpage. • Charge the department's graduate program committee with annually reviewing the graduate program web page for appropriate content and suggesting updates and improvements. • Increase pro-active recruitment activities at scientific conference and recruiting fairs and when giving seminars at other institutions. 	This year and on-going
	<p>Proactively move to hire young faculty with active research programs to replace active senior faculty nearing retirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for disciplinary priorities for the future • Work with college administration to ensure a timely replacement of positions essential for the graduate program 	Done On-going
	<p>Collaborate with other faculty and departments to offer interdisciplinary, cutting-edge programs that attract high quality students</p>	On-going
#2	<p>Introduce an interactive PDF form for soliciting faculty comments and recommendations regarding the fit between applicant's goals and interests and faculty research programs and willingness to serve as thesis advisor.</p>	Within 2 years
	<p>Encourage involvement of the faculty and current graduate students in recruiting, using follow up email and telephone calls.</p>	This year
	<p>For domestic applicants, have each applicant attend our recruiting weekend and meet one-on-one with several faculty members and interact with graduate students.</p>	On-going

	For international applicants, identify top candidates early in the admissions process and interview them by telephone prior to our recruiting weekend. Telephone interviews will be used to supplement information available through scores, personal statements, letters of recommendations, and information about the quality of their undergraduate institutions.	In progress
#3	Continue the current rotation system in which first year students funded through departmental assistantships or on training grants can work for several weeks in three different laboratories before choosing a Ph.D mentor. Better explain the rotation program on our website and in our Graduate Student Handbook and actively encourage rotations.	On-going This year
	Expand the current new student orientation to include elaboration of timelines, responsibilities, and the department's expectations on how students should be progressing through the program.	2007 orientation
	Improve procedures to ensure that students move through their program in an efficient manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more rigorous follow through on the annual committee reports filed with the Graduate Secretary to improve this vehicle as a monitoring device for student progress. • Implement additional evaluation documents to be completed by the advisor, committee members and student on an annual schedule • Schedule written and oral exams to allow students to advance to candidacy by the beginning of their third year. 	This year Within 2 years
	Expand mentoring program for new faculty to include guidance on serving as thesis advisors to address difficulties in faculty-student working relationships that occur most frequently with new faculty.	Within 2 years or with next hire
#4	Expand professional development opportunities for students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources for two student-invited speakers each year. • Include graduate student representatives at faculty meetings and on select committees • Encourage participation and provide awards for graduate student-organized symposia • Support social activities including socials, dinners and receptions for speakers, social interactions before and after seminars, etc. • Encourage participation of students in scientific meetings and retreats 	Ongoing
	Support the Graduate Student organization and its activities	Ongoing
	Facilitate interaction between international and domestic students and between students in different disciplines	Under consideration

