

**SELF-ASSESSMENT – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
UF - CHEMISTRY**

**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	Goal/Activities	Timeline
#1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review web site of our peer departments and implement a complete revision of the department web page with emphasis on providing clear information to prospective graduate applicants.</li> <li>2. Contact with recommenders: After each Ph.D. final defense the graduate coordinator will write a personal letter to one or two of the faculty who originally recommended the student to inform them of the event and to thank them for the recommendation.</li> <li>3. To improve number of domestic applicants, place a half-page advertisement in the graduate education issue of <i>In Chemistry</i>, the American Chemical Society magazine for undergraduate student affiliates.</li> <li>4. French recruiting: Our recruiting from French institutions has been quite successful in the last 5 years. We currently have 17 excellent French students in the program. A visit is being planned to several French universities in order to solidify our recruiting opportunities and promote our program among their undergraduates.</li> </ol>	<p>Completed, Spring 2006</p> <p>Initiated, Spring, 2006</p> <p>October, 2006</p> <p>Spring 2007</p>
#2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We presently have a 50% return on the offers we make to both domestic and international applicants. We initially screen for quantitative GRE scores above 650, highly positive letters of recommendation and convincing personal statements. Very few of our applicants are deficient in GPA performance. We believe that our low attrition rate indicates that we do a pretty good job in the selection of applicants. The very few (&lt; 2%) who end up departing for academic reasons generally were high risk applicants, e.g., students with low GRE or GPA who had compelling letters indicating that they were worth a chance.</li> </ol>	

	<p>We would, however, like to increase our domestic enrollment. Historically, our entering classes have been about 60% US / 40% international students. This ratio has gradually moved towards 50/50 in the last 4 years due to the very competitive recruiting environment for US students. To better understand the dynamic of US students' decision process, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Survey our fall, 2006 class and ask them which schools they applied to and why they chose UF.</li> </ul>	Fall, 2006
#3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand the orientation presentation to cover in greater detail the process of advisor selection. This includes a discussion of the important factors involved and avenues for advice in making the selection.</li> </ol>	Initiated, Fall, 2006
#4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social interaction is one area in which our students really excel. The department provides ample opportunity by funding a fall graduate student party and a spring student outing. We actively involve many of our students in recruiting activities and provide a graduate student common room where they can meet for meals, study and discussion. The common room is well used, especially by the first year students. The students organize block seating for sporting events and form a number of vigorous intramural sports teams. Many of our faculty members have dinners and social events for their individual research groups. On the whole, we feel we have a very collegial social environment for our students. I believe it is one of the attractive aspects of our program which enhances our ability to recruit good students.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No changes are needed</li> </ul>	Not Applicable