

Core Values and Responsibilities for Mentoring Graduate Students in the Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky

Approved by Entomology Faculty on September 16, 2013

Graduate students and faculty advisors in the Department of Entomology have high expectations and standards that can best be met through a relationship of reciprocal respect and support. Agreeing to serve as a mentor of a graduate student indicates that the faculty member will make a significant investment to enhance that student's creativity, knowledge, skills, and professional development. Graduate students are expected to commit their best efforts to research, coursework, teamwork, or other activities consistent with goals of the program or laboratory with which they are affiliated.

Each graduate student is an individual; one method of advising will not fit each student-advisor relationship, but serving as a mentor invariably requires accessibility, encouragement and time.

Mentor Responsibilities and Practices

Clarify and reinforce expectations and responsibilities early in the graduate student's career. Provide honest and constructive annual assessments of a graduate student's progress.

Interact with students with a frequency that is mutually agreed upon and appropriate for the student's academic progress. Encourage graduate students to seek advice from their Advisory Committee, peers, and others in the Department, University and within their disciplines.

Publishing and presenting research results is important for professional development of younger scientists. Mentors encourage and help guide their graduate students in these activities by providing timely feedback and constructive criticism on manuscripts, grant proposals, scientific posters, seminars, and oral presentations. Students are encouraged toward timely submission of manuscripts for publication.

If a graduate student's research project involves proprietary agreements, the student will be made fully aware of the University safeguards and mutual agreements that define the student's rights to present and publish their research. Proprietary research that is subject to secrecy agreements or other specific restrictions that delay or prohibit speaking about or timely publication of results should not be assigned as a primary component of a graduate student thesis or dissertation.

Mentors should encourage students to attend scientific meetings for networking and for experience in presenting original work. Gaining teaching experience and participating in scientific service and outreach should also be encouraged so long as the student is fulfilling other expectations for scholarship and research.

Mentors should provide guidance in students' professional development and assist them in preparing for their careers.