

**Graduate Program in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences**  
**M.S. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment**  
**November 11, 2011**

The M.S. program in Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences trains students at an advanced level in areas of endocrinology and integrative physiology as they relate to improving animal and human health.

**Learning Goal 1 for Students: Attain mastery of the essential aspects of research in areas of endocrinology and integrative physiology as they relate to improving animal and human health**

Assessment of student achievement in Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Comprehensive examination assessing depth and breadth of knowledge and a research thesis
  - Assessment of student's performance by committee of graduate faculty members
- Continuation of graduate studies or placement in a professional position that requires an understanding of endocrinology and integrated physiology, as well as competency in the technical aspects of performing work in these areas as they relate to animal and human health

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress
  - Includes annual reports on research progress from both the student and the student's committee chair
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
  - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
  - By program faculty
  - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

**Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research in endocrinology and integrative physiology that relates to animal or human health (for Masters degree with thesis).**

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 2:

- Preparation and defense of Master's thesis
- Assessment of quality of Master's thesis:

- Public defense of thesis
- Critical reading of thesis by committee of graduate faculty members
- Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers
- Achievement of students as evidenced by continuation of graduate studies or professional placement

Role of the graduate program in helping students achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors

**Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in careers that require training in endocrinology and integrative physiology as they relate to animal and human health**

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Participation in internships and other work tailored to career goals, assessed accordingly
- Collection of data on professional placement or continuation of graduate studies
- Review by external advisory committees, both inside of and external to the academy

Role of the program in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Host professional development and career exploration activities
- Develop internship opportunities
- Host external advisory committees

The leadership of the Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet the needs for professionals trained in endocrinology and integrative physiology as they relate to animal and human health.