

Guidelines for Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences

Graduate Student Laboratory Rotations

Purpose

Laboratory rotations offer new graduate students an opportunity to fully explore research options available in the program firsthand prior to deciding on a research mentor and specific area of research. Students learn a range of laboratory techniques and receive hands-on training in areas that may be useful to them in the future. They also meet other graduate students and faculty members in the program, thus facilitating networking. The rotations also enable students to get to know faculty members who would be appropriate committee members.

The end goal of the laboratory rotations is to help students identify an advisor for their graduate research toward their MS or PhD degree and learn about the research ongoing in each rotation lab.

Students typically choose two or three rotation labs. Research credits can be earned for these rotations by registering in the Graduate Program Director's section of EAB Research 16:340:701/702. Contact the GPD about enrolling.

Schedule

Graduate students are expected to be in the lab daily each weekday of the rotation, except for when they are in class or teaching. The daily schedule should be discussed/arranged for each rotation with the faculty supervisor.

For each rotation during the Fall or Spring semester:

8 weeks x ~ 20 h per week = 160 h total rotation time

- Since new students are taking classes and performing TA duties (if not on a fellowship), we estimate they will have ~ 20 h/week for the rotation.
- If the first rotation begins at the start of the Fall semester, the second rotation will probably span both semesters (e.g., beginning in November and ending in January). The third 8-week rotation may then start in January/February.

For summer rotations:

~ 160 h total rotation time = 4-5 weeks x 35 h/week

Note: These rotation schedules are flexible depending on hours the student can work, holidays during the rotation, and the lab's schedule.

Reporting

At the completion of each rotation, students will submit a short report to the GPD listing the faculty name and begin/end dates and **describing what they have done during this rotation and what they have learned in the lab**. Faculty will also be asked to evaluate the efforts of each rotation student.