

Student Learning Outcomes

We expect each graduate student, whether in an MS or PhD program in Biology or Plant Sciences, to have achieved the following outcomes by the time his/her program is completed:

1. Prepared for a successful and productive career in biological sciences, including:
 - a. achieved a high level of expertise in biological sciences, mastering knowledge in a field of expertise and prepared to apply that knowledge to address novel and emerging problems;
 - b. presented his/her research to national and international audiences through both peer-reviewed and popular publications, professional meetings and conference proceedings;
 - c. participated in professional organizations; and,
 - d. developed a professional foundation through activities such as teaching, internships, fellowships, and preparation of grant applications.

2. Trained to be a leading researcher in a field of the biological sciences, including:
 - a. achieved research independence by developing expertise in his/her chosen area, thereby enabling original contributions that extend beyond their degree program;
 - b. applied sound research methods and tools to problems in his/her area of study;
 - c. communicated his/her research clearly and professionally in both written and oral forms; and
 - d. developed comprehensive knowledge of previous and current research in his/her field of expertise and capable of demonstrating clearly such knowledge.

3. Trained to be a highly effective teacher in the biological sciences, including:
 - a. obtained teaching training in coursework;
 - b. encouraged to become engaging instructors in his/her chosen fields using modern pedagogical techniques;
 - c. capable of incorporating emerging scientific discoveries in teaching, thereby keeping the classroom experience at the cutting-edge for students; and,
 - d. trained to review and revise classroom materials to enhance the learning experience for students.