

LABORATORY ROTATIONS and THESIS LAB SELECTION

ROTATIONS

GOAL for ROTATIONS: Rotations create meaningful interactions with potential thesis laboratories and expose Trainees to the Program's cross-disciplinary assets.

ROTATIONS:

1. Involve a minimum of three laboratory rotations during the first academic year.
2. Have a duration of 5–8 weeks with at least two completed the first semester.
3. Can be arranged with any [Biotechnology Program Trainer](#), regardless of department affiliation. Rotations to explore new disciplines are encouraged.
4. Involve at least two rotations with [current Biotechnology Program Trainers](#). A non-Trainer rotation is allowed if explicitly approved in advance by the Program Director.
5. Are intended to give Trainees full participation in all laboratory activities such as weekly group meetings and a structured supervised project.
6. Require 50% of a Trainee's time and effort.
7. Require reporting at the end of a rotation that includes giving a research presentation to the host laboratory and submitting a written report to the Program.

ARRANGING ROTATIONS:

1. The Trainee is responsible for arranging rotations.
2. The program will support Trainees by providing information about training faculty and reviewing required Rotation Plans.
3. The Trainee should contact potential advisors to arrange rotations as early as possible. The first rotation should be arranged before arrival at WSU.
4. Trainees may alter rotation plans in response to changing interests and opportunities upon consultation with the Program.
5. Rotations are subject to approval by the Director.

SUPPORT AND REPORTING:

Trainees receive guidance and support via the following meetings and reports.

- ☐ Submit [Rotation Plan](#). Meet with director & coordinator. First week of fall semester.
- ☐ Submit [Rotation Report #1/NIH Report](#). Due October 15.
- ☐ Submit [Rotation Report #2](#) online. Due December 15.
- ☐ Submit [Rotation Report #3](#) online. Due March 1. Meet with director & coordinator.

THESIS LAB SELECTION

GUIDANCE:

- 1) Thesis advisor selection is a mutual decision of the Trainee, the Trainer, and the Biotechnology Training Program Director.
- 2) Some important considerations are:
 - a. The laboratory's general subject of research, potential projects available, and typical experimental techniques.
 - b. The potential for a compatible mentoring relationship with your prospective thesis advisor and research group.
 - c. The availability of space, project funding, and research assistant support for the duration of the graduate career.

CONFIRMING SELECTION:

- ☐ Meet with Director & Coordinator to discuss and confirm choice.
- ☐ Print and sign Thesis Lab Selection Form. Send to Program for approval.

ANNUAL EVALUATION:

Annual reporting includes check-ins with Trainees and Mentors on degree progress and mentoring practice. In consultation with the Executive Steering Committee, the Program Director will evaluate the reports and consult with Trainees and Trainers, as necessary, to ensure a supportive, productive research environment. The Program Director and Coordinator are always available for consultation.