

Guidance on Laboratory Rotations

The selection of a laboratory and dissertation advisor is one of the most critical decisions that a graduate student will make. The principle investigator (**PI**) is responsible for both the rotation experience and an evaluation that fully documents the student's performance.

During the first few weeks of the fall semester, OCMB 703 introduces the students to research opportunities. By the end of OCMB 703, students should have identified three faculty members with whom they would like to rotate. The student then writes a short (~ 1000 word) paper on why they would like to rotate through those labs. The students will contact the PI and alert the program director (PD) of their choices. A student may change their rotation selection any time before the rotation begins by notifying the PI and the program director. The rotations are subject to the agreement of the laboratory PI and the department chair. On completion of the laboratory rotation, students will be asked to complete an evaluation. For more information, see below.

Rotation Guidance

The selection of a laboratory and dissertation advisor is one of the most critical decisions that a graduate student must make. It is important for students to experience a range of rotation laboratories in their area of interest, therefore students will typically complete three rotations and they must complete a minimum of two rotations. The PI is responsible for both the rotation experience and an evaluation that fully documents the student's performance. The following guidelines have been developed to direct this process.

Selecting a rotation mentor: During the first few weeks of the fall semester, students will be introduced to research opportunities in OCMB 703. By the end of OCMB 703, students should have identified three faculty members with whom they would like to rotate. The PD is available for discussion about rotation choices. The student will write a short (~1000 word) paper on why they would like to rotate through those labs. The students will contact the PI and alert the course director and PD of their choice. A student may change their research rotation choices. If changes are made, the student should inform the course director and the program director.

Responsibilities of Rotation Mentor

Admitting a student for rotation carries the expectation that the student and mentor may match for the student's PhD dissertation.

- The mentor will clearly define, and discuss with the student, the schedule and laboratory duties of the student at the beginning of each rotation.
- The mentor is ultimately responsible for evaluating the rotation; however, a senior member of the laboratory may directly oversee the student's daily activities.
- The PI will meet with the student on a regular basis during the rotation and is responsible for evaluating student performance.
- The PI or the assigned mentor will assist the student in the preparation of an oral presentation to be presented at the end of each rotation.
- At the end of each rotation, the PI will provide an evaluation to the course director for OCMB 705 along with a brief statement of performance and a response to the specific question: "Are you able and willing to take this student in your lab for their PhD?"

Responsibilities of the Student

Students should maintain an open mind during each rotation and maintain a professional attitude towards their work even if you decide you do not wish to join that laboratory as you will be graded on all rotations.

Students should note that it is not always possible to be accepted into their first choice laboratory. The failure to secure a dissertation adviser is grounds for dismissal from the program.

- The student should attend the laboratory when not in class.
- The student should research the subject area and become familiar with the current literature.
- The student will adhere to the schedule and perform the laboratory duties agreed upon with the mentor at the beginning of each rotation.
- The student will prepare an oral presentation on their work and present this to the Philips Faculty.
- The student should complete an evaluation of their rotation upon completion via [google form survey](#).

Laboratory rotation schedule (exact dates vary by year) Rotation 1

Inclusive dates October- December

Rotation 2 Inclusive dates December- March Rotation 3

Inclusive dates March - May

Non School of Dentistry Faculty

Affiliate faculty may be included in the rotation options if their department chair agrees and underwrites their acceptance of a student into their laboratory. In this case, the advisor must agree to provide student tuition, stipend, and insurance typically from grants after school support ceases. In case of a lapse in funding, the department must agree to support the student until funding is restored.