

## Graduate Program Assessment for NDFS Department

### PhD and MS

Fall 2016 – Summer 2017

Mastery of subject material by individual students in the MS and PhD programs is assessed by their supervisory committee following standard procedures required by the graduate school and department. The outcomes data evaluated by the supervisory committees includes plans of study, research proposals, qualifying exams, and theses and dissertations.

In addition, the NDFS Department employs a variety of tools to collect feedback on the overall performance of its graduate programs, including, but not limited to:

#### *PhD and MS in Nutrition and Food Sciences*

- Number of students in each degree
- Average time to degree completion
  - 2 years or less for MS degrees
  - 3 years or less for PhD<sub>48</sub> degrees
  - 5 years or less for PhD<sub>70</sub> degrees
- Average GRE scores of entering students
- Average stipend for MS and PhD assistantships
- Changes to graduate requirements and process stipulated by grad school
- # graduate student authorships per student
- # graduate student presentations per student
- % students completing degrees in targeted time frames
- Alumni and employer surveys

The performance of the PhD and MS program for 2016/17 was evaluated using the categories detailed above. The results are summarized below. Results were collected for the period of August 2016 until July 2017.

#### *PhD and MS in Nutrition and Food Sciences*

1. Total number of students in each degree
  - a. PhD all: 11
    - i. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 6
    - ii. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 5
  - b. MS: 12
2. Number of graduated students:
  - a. PhD all: 4
    - i. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 2
    - ii. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 2
  - b. MS: 3

3. Time to (in years) degree completion (median values)
  - a. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 3.7
  - b. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 4.2
  - c. MS: 2
4. % students completing degrees in targeted time frames:
  - a. 3 years or less or PhD<sub>48</sub>: 0%
  - b. 5 years or less for PhD<sub>70</sub>: 100%
  - c. 2 years or less for MS: 100%
5. GRE scores (median values) of entering students
  - a. Quantitative: 53
  - b. Verbal: 61
6. Yearly stipend (median values) for MS and PhD assistantships
  - a. MS: \$11,858
  - b. PhD:\$12,741
7. Changes to graduate requirements and process stipulated by graduate school
  - a. Changes in comprehensive requirements
  - b. Changes in class requirement
8. Student authorships in peer-reviewed journals:
  - a. Median: 0
  - b. Mean: 1.1
9. Student authorship in local, regional, and international conferences:
  - a. Median: 1
  - b. Mean: 2.4
10. Students that completed their annual review: 32%
11. Alumni and employer surveys
  - a. Data not collected

### *Discussion*

The number of graduate students has not changed from the previous years. During the period of Fall 2016 until Summer 2017 the NDFS Department had a total of 23 graduate students. This number corresponds to 12 MS students, 6 PhD<sub>48</sub> students and 5 PhD<sub>70</sub> students. The NDFS department had a total of 7 students that graduated during the period of Fall 2016 and Summer 2017. From these students, 3 obtained MS degrees, 2 obtained PhD<sub>48</sub> degrees, and 2 obtained PhD<sub>70</sub> degrees. All MS and PhD<sub>70</sub> students graduated on time. PhD<sub>48</sub> students graduated after approximately 3.6 years indicating that they were slightly above the expected graduation time (3 years). Last year the NDFS Graduate Program implemented an annual student progress report to track students' progress and to help them finish their degree on time. Only 32% of our current graduate students have completed this annual report last year. The Graduate Program will discuss options to enforce the submission of this annual report.

The publication record of students graduating from our program is low with a median value of 0 and a mean value of 1.1. Data was collected from a total of 32 current and past students from

which 19 are current students and 13 are students that have graduated from the program. Publications' median and mean values increase to 2 and 2.2 when values are calculated using only data from students that have already graduated from our program (that is, excluding current students). This indicates that most of the publications coming from the NDFS Department occur after the students have graduated from the program, which is expected and acceptable.

During this last year, the NDFS Graduate Program has made some changes to the MS and PhD requirements. Changes for the MS program requirement includes more flexibility in the classes that can be taken to meet the BIOCHEM and STAT class requirement. Changes in the PhD program requirements are related to the comprehensive exams. More details about these changes can be found in the USU Catalogue.