

## Graduate Student Guidelines and Rules

1. **Research.** Independent research training is the first priority of all doctoral graduate students. This entails the development of an independent hypothesis- or goal-driven research project, publication of results in peer-reviewed journals, presentation of results at national meetings, and assistance in the progress of other projects in the lab as detailed below:

**Publication.** In general, you will be expected to publish a minimum of *two peer-reviewed publications as the first author* prior to defending your dissertation. While this is not an absolute rule as each project varies in content, based on previous experience and the type of publications in which the lab is interested, this is a realistic minimum. You will also be expected to be *a co-author on at least one* additional manuscript. This ensures engagement in more than one project and enhances the breadth of your training.

**Content.** In general, each dissertation project should have both an experimental and a modeling component. The breakdown will vary, but we will work together to develop a balanced project.

**National/International Meetings.** You will be expected to present at a minimum of two scientific meetings. If travel funds allow, attending one meeting each year should be the goal.

**Mentoring/Assistance with Lab.** You are expected to assist with the progress of other projects in the lab on an “as needed” basis as you develop an expertise in experimental/theoretical methods, as well as day-to-day lab duties as described by the lab manager. In addition, mentoring of at least one undergraduate student is an expectation.

**Timeline/Progress.** Each student is expected to complete the Qualifying Exam by the end of the second year (i.e., end of the summer of the second year). This provides approximately 15 months in the lab to develop a project for your dissertation, and assures that you are focused and on track. You would then be expected to defend your dissertation by the completion of your 5th year. If you are unable to complete the Qualifying Exam by the end of your second year (extenuating circumstance aside), then you can compile your results into a M.S. degree with thesis.

2. **Teaching.** All graduate students will be expected to be a teaching assistant for a minimum of two semesters. During this time, your appointment will be as a Teaching Assistant (as opposed to a Graduate Student Researcher), and the time

commitment is expected to be approximately 20 hours per week. You will be expected to make progress in your research project during this time understanding that the rate may slow due to teaching commitments. The purpose of this experience two-fold: 1) teaching enhances your training experience and ability to understand one or more topics in depth; 2) teaching extends the extramural research resources to more individuals. We will work together to determine the timing of which quarters to TA. The decision will normally be based on available courses, expertise, and extramural funding.

3. **Salary/Vacation.** Salary is contingent on available funds from extra- and intramural sources, and adequate progress (see timeline). Every effort will be made on the part of Professor George as well as the graduate student to maintain adequate funds for the following salary structure:
  - A. During the academic year (October-June), graduate students will receive the equivalent salary of a 49% appointment of a GSR following the salary structure on the UCI website. This is the maximum % appointment available per UCI guidelines. The step level is determined by the Henry Samueli School of Engineering and is as follows (good academic standing is implied): Step II, bachelors degree; Step III, Masters degree; Step V, Masters degree and PhD candidate (i.e., passed the qualifying exam).
  - B. During the summer, additional salary is available as appointment at 100% time is possible. This extra salary (~ \$4,000) will be available if one or more of the following milestones is achieved, and is based on the obvious extra commitment, dedication, and resources that each involves:
    - i. An independent fellowship if awarded (e.g., NSF, NIH, ALA). These fellowships generally cover 49% time during the entire year, but additional resources from the lab will generally be available to augment your salary to 100% time in the summer.
    - ii. Two first-authored peer-reviewed manuscripts are accepted for publication.
    - iii. Significant (at my discretion) assistance in generating data, background information, or hypothesis generation for a successful extramural grant for the lab (i.e., R01 from the NIH).
  - C. Vacation is generally four weeks per year, but is at your discretion. You should plan to give me at least two weeks notice, and organize your vacation at appropriate times regarding your experimental and theoretical studies.