

Accelerated Master student expectations

Sept 2025

Adapted from Dr. Danielle Benoit's lab manual

As an AM student in the lab, you are expected to:

- Always follow our lab values and lab handbook.
- Cultivate your curiosity and creativity. Select a research topic that excites you and will lead you to new knowledge. If you're funded by a particular project, your work will be closely associated with that project.
- Conduct your teaching and research with openness and integrity.
- Take training in EHS, lab rule, assays, etc., seriously and as soon as appropriate.
- Represent the lab with pride and show respect for others. You are now an ambassador for the lab as well as a member. How you interact with our colleagues will shape our reputation.
- You are expected to produce 2-3 peer-reviewed publications during your training (1 yr), including at least 1 first author research articles. For the first 1st author manuscript, you will learn from me how to prepare manuscript and go through the whole process. I want everyone to be as successful and happy as you can and want to be.
- You are encouraged to pursue a PhD in the lab. It's a two-way choice. Please initiate the conversation as soon as you are inclined to.
- Actively participate in all laboratory group functions (group meeting, subgroup meetings, seminars); this means paying attention, asking questions, offering feedback, and using phones and computers only for work that is directly related to the meeting at hand.
 - Attend Seminars. There are both in person and virtual seminars available. It's a great resource to expand your knowledge and get new ideas.
 - Progress reports in the one-on-one meetings. See more from **Our Values** on the website.
- Maintain and treat all lab equipment and lab space with care; if we are running low on a necessary supply, if software licenses are set to expire, if computers need updating, etc., alert me or the one who is responsible for lab ordering/management.
- Review the literature. Read all the literature I suggest and a boatload more! Learn to use google scholar (and set google scholar alerts!), Elicit, PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus. Read outside of your discipline (Science/Nature are good places to start) to get some perspective and maybe new ideas too.
- Actively seek out fellowship/grant/award proposals and apply for those you are a good fit for. Remember that providing letters of recommendation and feedback on drafts take

time and effort from those writing them; do not apply for opportunities for which you do not meet the requirements.

- Present your work at one conference – contingent on progress measured by publications. Usually the conference fits your career goals, like GRCs or industry orientated, are recommended.
- Be familiar with and meet the deadlines and benchmarks in your Departmental Graduate Student Handbook. Meeting these are entirely your responsibility, not the PIs.
- Manage research challenges. Perform research! Plan experiments well, don't forget about necessary controls, keep good notebooks, and record everything! Make sure these experimental outcomes would be acceptable figures/tables/data for a publication!
 - Sit down and carefully think about the solution yourself
 - Look for answers in the literature
 - Solicit advice from your lab mates
 - Please seek advice from the PI; I am always happy to discuss issues, but it is in all of our best interest if you work on the problem yourself first.
 - If we're still struggling, we'll go outside of the lab for advice (e.g., to collaborators or colleagues), but please talk to the PI about this first.
- Share your expertise, experience, and materials with others in the lab. There are significant rewards for being generous with your time and knowledge.
- Share responsibility for mentoring undergraduates working in the lab.
- MS Office/Endnote/Prism/Biorender/Zotero/Adobe Illustrator software will be used for writing, figure making, statistical analysis, etc. Learn them now and it will save you lots of time!
- Back up data: Google drive and physical hard drive.
- Get/keep a life! Something that took me some time to learn. Get a hobby, love someone, be passionate about things other than research. A must in this equation is a balance – to keep yourself sane and give your brain time to process experiments and come up with innovative ideas and ways to circumvent problems you're having.
- Exercise and eat right. It does your body and mind good and is worth the time in rewards.