

## Graduate Program Assessment for NDFS Department

### PhD and MS

Fall 2017 – Summer 2018

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 2017/18 was evaluated using the categories detailed above. The results are summarized below. Results were collected for the period of August 2017 until July 2018.

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

1. Total number of students in each degree
  - a. PhD all: 14
    - i. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 7
    - ii. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 7
  - b. MS: 19
2. Number of graduated students:
  - a. PhD all: 5
    - i. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 1
    - ii. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 4
  - b. MS: 7

3. Time to (in years) degree completion (median values)
  - a. PhD<sub>48</sub>: 4
  - b. PhD<sub>70</sub>: 3.7
  - c. MS: 1.7
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: 51
  - b. Verbal: 52
6. Yearly stipend (median values) for MS and PhD assistantships
  - a. MS: \$15,336
  - b. PhD: \$15,940
7. Changes to graduate requirements and process stipulated by graduate school
  - a. None
8. Student authorships in peer-reviewed journals:
  - a. Data not collected
9. Student authorship in local, regional, and international conferences:
  - a. Data not collected
10. Students that completed their annual review: 30.3%
11. Alumni and employer surveys
  - a. Data not collected

### *Discussion*

The number of graduate students has slightly increased from the previous year from 23 graduate students in 2016/2017 to 33 students in 2017/2018. This increase was due to an increase in both MS and PhD students. The NDFS department had a total of 12 students that graduated during the period of Fall 2017 and Summer 2018. From these students, 7 obtained MS degrees, 1 obtained a PhD<sub>48</sub> degree, and 4 obtained PhD<sub>70</sub> degrees. These graduation numbers are also higher to the ones reported in 2016/2017 assessment. All MS and PhD<sub>70</sub> students graduated on time. The PhD<sub>48</sub> student graduated after 4 years in the program which is above the expected graduation time (3 years). Several years ago the NDFS Graduate Program implemented an annual student progress report to track students' progress and to help them finish their degree on time. Only 30% of our current graduate students have completed this annual report last year which is similar to the response rate obtained in previous year. The Graduate Program will discuss options to enforce the submission of this annual report.