

Graduate Program Assessment for NDFS Department

PhD and MS

Fall 2018 – Summer 2019

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 PhD₄₈ degrees
 - 5 years or less for PhD₇₀ 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

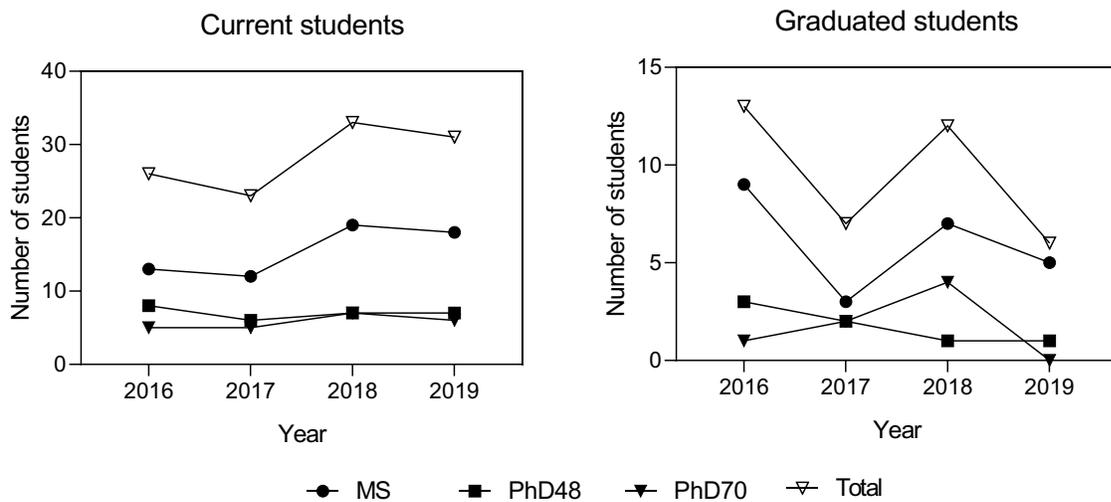
The performance of the PhD and MS program for 2018/19 was evaluated using the categories detailed above. The results are summarized below. Results were collected for the period of August 2018 until July 2019.

PhD and MS in Nutrition and Food Sciences

1. Total number of students in each degree: 31
 - a. PhD all: 13
 - i. PhD₄₈: 7
 - ii. PhD₇₀: 6
 - b. MS: 18
2. Number of graduated students: 6
 - a. PhD all: 1
 - i. PhD₄₈: 1
 - ii. PhD₇₀: 0
 - b. MS: 5

3. Time to (in years) degree completion (median values)
 - a. PhD₄₈: 3.7
 - b. PhD₇₀: N/A
 - c. MS: 4.3
4. % students completing degrees in targeted time frames:
 - a. 3 years or less for PhD₄₈: 0%
 - b. 5 years or less for PhD₇₀: N/A
 - c. 2 years or less for MS: 0%
5. GRE scores (median values) of entering students
 - a. Quantitative: 42.5
 - b. Verbal: 65
6. Yearly stipend (median values) for MS and PhD assistantships
 - a. MS: \$16,500
 - b. PhD: \$16,504
7. Changes to graduate requirements and process stipulated by graduate school
 - a. None
8. Student authorships in peer-reviewed journals:
 - a. 12
9. Student authorship in local, regional, and international conferences:
 - a. 29
10. Students that completed their annual review: 22.6%
11. Alumni and employer surveys
 - a. Data not collected

Figure 1: Four-year trend of current and graduate students enrolled in the MS and PhD graduate degree at NDFS



Discussion

The number of graduate students has slightly decreased from the previous year from 33 students in 2017/2018 to 31 students in 2018/2019. Figure 1 shows a 4-year trend in the number of graduate students in the program. It can be observed a significant increase in the number of graduate students from 2016/2017 to 2017/2018 and it seems that the tendency has leveled off this year. This increase in numbers is mainly due to an increase in the number of MS. It is possible that the increase in MS student observed two years ago was due to the BUILD Dairy Program which has provided a significant financial support to MS students in the department. The total number of students that graduate every year has fluctuated for the last 4 years between 6 and 13. In 2018/2019 the NDFS department had a total of 6 students that graduated during the period of Fall 2018 and Summer 2019. From these students, 5 obtained MS degrees and 1 obtained a PhD₄₈ degree. The graduation time for all graduating students was above the target time (2 years for MS students and 3 years for PhD₄₈ students). It is unknown why the students were above their expected time of graduation and the Graduate Program will discuss possible scenarios.

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 23% of our current graduate students have completed this annual report last year which is lower to the response rate obtained in the previous year (30%). The Graduate Program will discuss options to enforce the submission of this annual report.

The outcomes of students currently involved in the NDFS MS and PhD program are 12 papers (median = 0.5 papers) in peer-reviewed journals and 29 presentations (median = 2 presentations) in Regional, Local, and International Meetings. The high number of presentations in conferences is likely due to the financial support available from the College to match travel support for student authors.