



University of Pittsburgh
Department of Biological Sciences
Graduate Programs in EE and MCDB

Mid-Year SELF-Evaluation for First-Year Students

Student form: This form is to be completed by the student reflecting on your accomplishments during the semester, before discussing your performance with the Interim Advisor. The form should be sent to in Interim advisor in advance of the discussion.

Student's Name	
Graduate Program	EE MCDB Other:
Interim Advisor	

Detailed evaluation form.

Research rotations	I had an excellent rotation and gave an excellent seminar.	I had a very good rotation and gave a very good seminar.	I had a positive rotation and gave a good seminar.	I had some problems with my rotation and the seminar.	My rotation and seminar did not go well.
Formal Course(s)	I believe that I had an excellent semester and that I excelled in all academic courses.	I believe that I had a very good semester and that I excelled in almost all academic courses.	I believe that I had an OK semester and that I am meeting program expectations.	I found it difficult to keep up with my classes and struggled to understand much of the subject matter.	I am not sure I can succeed academically and don't have a clear path forward.
Literature/ Seminar course(s)	I think that I have an excellent record of participation and activity. I asked questions, generated ideas, and stimulated discussion.	I think that I have a very good record of participation and activity; I asked questions and participated in discussion.	I think I have some record of participation and activity; I asked a few questions and participated occasionally in discussions.	I had poor or sporadic participation and activity; I asked very few questions and rarely participated in discussions.	I did not participate.
Communication course(s)	I think that I have an excellent record of participation and activity. I asked questions, generated ideas, and stimulated discussion.	I think that I have a very good record of participation and activity; I asked questions and participated in discussion.	I think I have some record of participation and activity; I asked some questions and participated occasionally in discussions.	I had poor or sporadic participation and activity; I asked very few questions and rarely participated in discussions.	I did not participate.
Participation in Departmental Retreat	I think that I have an excellent record of participation and activity. I asked questions, generated ideas and stimulated discussion.	I think that I have a very good record of participation and activity; I asked questions and participated in discussion.	I think I have some record of participation and activity; I asked some questions and participated occasionally in discussion.	I had poor or sporadic participation and activity; I asked very few questions and rarely participated in discussions.	I did not participate.
Persistence	I think I am very persistent in the face of academic and research challenges. I feel stimulated by the challenges.	I think I am persistent in the face of academic and research challenges. I do not shy away but can actively seek solutions.	I can sustain academic and research challenges and know where to seek help.	I recognize, and have experienced, the difficulty of academic and research challenges and am trying to take steps to overcome them.	I feel I have major difficulties in overcoming academic and research challenges and do not have a strategy in place to overcome them.

Enthusiasm	I am very enthusiastic about my research and studies; I excitedly look forward to learning and doing more.	I am very enthusiastic about most of what we do in class or in the lab. I look forward to learning and doing more.	I am satisfied with most of my current research and studies; I look forward to focusing on what I need to do to succeed.	I am having difficulties with showing interest in some or many topics. I do not feel greatly invested in lab or coursework.	I do not find my research or courses interesting. I am having difficult engaging with research beyond a minimal level.
Overall assessment	I feel comfortable in all components of my first-year graduate studies and research and am pushing to reach higher levels in all areas. I feel that I am already functioning independently in all areas.	I think that I am doing well in most components of assessment and stand out in some. I feel like I am growing more independent in most areas.	I think I am on an upward trajectory and all components are on par with the program expectations. I can understand what it will take to become independent in all areas.	I have clearly identified deficits in several components. I have discussed them with the Interim or Rotation advisor and am taking steps to improve.	My trajectory is uncertain, path to improvement is unclear, or a discussion of the path has not been productive.

Detailed evaluation narrative.

Include specific examples of key components of this assessment. Detail/list evidence of enthusiasm and persistence

My approach to learning is:

List/detail the best parts of this semester.

What can be improved moving forward (both on your and the interim mentor's side)

Guidelines

This report must be completed by student. Return the completed document to Cathy Barr (cbarr@pitt.edu), who will forward it to the DGS and the Interim advisor. They may discuss the content of this evaluation with other committees.