



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

Research Rotation SELF-Assessment

Student form: This form is to be completed by the student after the rotation, reflecting on your accomplishments during the entire rotation and status at the end of the rotation. The form should then be discussed with the professor in whose lab you rotated at the same time that their analysis is shared.

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|---------------------------|----|------|--------|---|
| Student's Name | | | | |
| Graduate Program | EE | MCDB | Other: | |
| Rotation Advisor | | | | |
| Rotation Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Title of Rotation Project | | | | |

Detailed evaluation form.

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| Knowledge on specific project | I am in command of the material pertaining to my project. I can answer and ask relevant questions with ease. | I can explain most key concepts and answer most questions pertaining to my project. | I understand some key concepts and paradigms pertaining to the project, but some knowledge gaps are present. | I do not have a clear picture of what the project is about. |
| General knowledge | I am in command of the “big picture” and can relate the project to the research field. I can ask and answer relevant questions with ease. | I can explain most key concepts and answer most questions pertaining to the position of my project in the research field. | I know a few key concepts and paradigms but have trouble placing them in a big picture. | I do not understand the relevance of this project in modern biology. |
| Proficiency in designing experiments | I believe that I have a clear record of designing my own experiments, including appropriate controls and statistics. I can account for pitfalls and alternatives and know how to choose and employ mastered relevant statistical methods. | I can design most experiments independently, but others require direction and discussion. I recognize and employ appropriate statistical methods, when appropriate. | I need help designing experiments completely I usually miss some aspects of controls I do not fully appreciate statistical approaches. | I need help with every aspect of experiment design. |
| Proficiency in executing experiments | I am readily able to perform experiments completely independently and always obtain interpretable data. | I am usually able to perform experiments independently and obtain interpretable results. | I still require frequent supervision in performing experiments and need significant help troubleshooting. | Multiple failures on established protocols or experiments Felt that constant supervision was needed. Unable to troubleshoot or apply positive and negative controls. |

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| Proficiency in interpreting experiments | I have a clear record of independently interpreting my experiments, and understand pitfalls, limitations and future directions. | I believe that I can interpret some experiments independently, but I still need help with some aspects of interpretation. | I find experiments difficult to interpret. | Difficulty in interpreting controls or understanding results. |
| Lab Notebook | I maintained an excellent notebook of my results. | My laboratory notebook was generally up to date and organized. | Failed or had difficult updating my laboratory notebook in a timely manner. | Difficulty in documentation such that an outside observer could not be understood what experiments were done. |
| Seminar performance | I believe that my seminar was thoughtful and clear, prepared all materials, anticipated many questions, everyone in room could explain significance of project and how my results related to key questions in the field. | I believe that my seminar was mostly clear, logical, concise, and that I generally answered questions well. | I had some problems with organization and clarity as well as answering questions. | I had major problems with organization, presentation, and answering questions. |
| Intellectual Contribution | I am able to generate new ideas, integrate the data, and plan all future experiments. | I generated some useful ideas, commonly integrated the data, and planned some future experiments. | I generated few ideas pertaining to this project and was usually unable to map-out future research directions. | I was unable to generate any ideas pertaining to this project. |
| Lab citizenship | I had great interactions with lab members, discussed science, and contributed to lab chores. | I had good interactions with lab members and on occasion we talked about experiments and projects. When asked I helped out with lab maintenance. | I had a few interactions with lab members, but we didn't discuss science very often. I didn't do many things for the lab. | I had no scientific interactions with lab members. |

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| Attendance and work ethic | I was successful in achieving lab goals and in identifying the next series of goals without prompting. I was motivated to make progress beyond original goals, and I was in the lab whenever possible. | I probably spent the expected amount of time in the lab. I set my own schedule and achieved most of the agreed upon goals and set some new ones. | I did not spend enough time in the lab and missed or was late on occasion. I needed prompting to schedule experiments or analyze data. | I had difficulty making time for lab work. I failed to understand what the appropriate amount of time in lab was and had major difficulty setting a schedule. |
| Overall assessment | I have documented evidence of accomplishment and excelled in all areas below. | I feel that I was productive, on an upward trajectory, but still require some direction. | I feel that I am on an upward trajectory but require major direction and improvements in key areas. | I feel I am not yet up to speed and require changes to approach or effort to achieve expected standards. |
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Detailed evaluation

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 rotation

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

Guidelines

This report must be completed by the student. Return the completed PDF to Cathy Barr (cbarr@pitt.edu), who will forward it to the DGS and the interim advisor. This evaluation may be discussed with other committees.