Department of Biological Sciences
Graduate Programs in EE and MCDB

Rotation Research Project Summary

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

Project Description – Complete this portion during the first week of the rotation & email to Cathy Barr

a) Briefly state the scientific objective of the rotation project.

b) Briefly describe the experimental approach to be used to address the objective.

c) Briefly describe the possible results and how you would interpret them.

Project Assessment – Update this portion during the week after the rotation & email the entire form – with both portions completed – to Cathy Barr

a) How did the results you obtained correspond to those expected?

b) What portions of the rotation went well?

c) What, if anything, would you choose to do differently?

Guidelines

This report is be completed by the student. The first portion of each section is to be completed by the student within 1 week of the start of each rotation. At this time, the student should return the Word document (not a PDF or paper copy) to Cathy Barr (cbarr@pitt.edu), who will forward it to the DGS and the interim advisor. The student must retain the document and complete the second portion when the rotation is complete. At that time, the student should return the completed Word document (not a PDF or paper copy) to Cathy Barr (cbarr@pitt.edu).

Project Description

Rotations are centered on hypothesis-driven research projects. Write three brief descriptions (one paragraph each) of the project, including (a) an overview of the question to be answered, (b) a description of the experimental approach used to answer the question and (c) possible results along with interpretations of what the results would mean. Write these sections considering the overall faculty (not just your rotation advisor) as your audience.

You should feel comfortable with the rationale behind the project and why it is being used to answer the scientific question, the justification for using the experimental method to address the project's aim, and the interpretation of the potential outcomes. These are all aspects you will need to apply to your own research projects.

Project Assessment

Write three brief descriptions (one paragraph each) assessing the outcomes of the project, including (a) how the actual results compare to those you expected at the beginning of the project, including descriptions of unexpected outcomes or unanticipated problems (b) an assessment of the aspects of the rotation – scientific or otherwise – that went well, and (c) a reevaluation of the rotation, identifying areas of weakness.

The completion of a research project provides an opportunity to evaluate not only our strengths and weaknesses, but to consider again the motivation, rationale, experimental approach, significance and impact of the work. Students should develop the practice of self-critique, which is invaluable in the development of successful researchers.

Document re-use at the end of the rotation

Students should use their previously-completed initial forms to perform the project assessment. Leave the *Project Description* portion unaltered and complete the *Project Assessment* portion.