

Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program

Student - Major Professor Selection and Commitment

Student's name – (print)_____

Term and year the student entered the program – (print)_____

Major Professor's name – (print)_____

The selection and commitment between a student and Major Professor is the most important aspect of graduate training. Upon selection, the Major Professor becomes the key faculty member responsible for the student's training. This document provides the guidelines for some of the expectations and responsibilities of the student and mentor.

- ◆ The student and Major Professor will select a dissertation committee that will include a minimum of four members. One member is the Major Professor and one member must be from the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Education Committee.
- ◆ The dissertation committee will meet annually and submit an evaluation report to the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Education Committee.
- ◆ The student, Major Professor, and dissertation committee will strive for the completion of all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within four to five years. This includes the required minimum of at least one first author paper in a peer-reviewed journal.

Student

- ◆ Students are expected to devote full time to their research and studies. A successful Ph.D. thesis will require dedication and a willingness to work long hours. No outside employment is allowed.
- ◆ Act in a professional and ethical manner at all times.
- ◆ Strive to perform to the best of their abilities and to continually improve their scientific thinking, research technique, scientific writing, and oral presentation skills.
- ◆ Maintain research data in a format that is readily accessible and interpretable by the Major Professor. The data generated in the Major Professor's laboratory belongs to the Major Professor.
- ◆ Take responsibility for the scheduling of their annual committee meeting and the completion of the annual progress report.

Major Professor

- ◆ Faculty members interested in mentoring a Cancer Biology student must meet with their respective Program Administrator to ascertain whether financially supporting

the student is feasible and allocate funding for a minimum of the student's first two years in the lab.

- ◆ Beginning with the student's second year the Major Professor is responsible for arranging stipend support as set by the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Education Committee (\$23,278 projected for 2009-2010 academic year). A cost of living increase will be processed annually in the spring; current projected increase is 3%. Stipend support beyond five years from the time of admission (not counting approved leave of absences) is not guaranteed. *Time Limitation Policy* attached.
- ◆ Should a student acquire his/her own funding, the Major Professor should refer to the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program *Mentor Policies - Fellowships* with regard to stipend funding and bonuses. (Attached)
- ◆ Assume responsibility for the scientific development and overall training of the student, which meets the high standards of the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program.
- ◆ The Major Professor will provide a high-quality research environment with equipment and supplies conducive to the successful education and development of the student as an independent investigator.
- ◆ Be available to regularly meet with the student to discuss the progress of their research and in the Ph.D. Program.
- ◆ Encourage and support student presentations of their research at local and national meetings.
- ◆ Submit an annual student progress report to the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Education Committee.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Major Professor's signature _____ Date _____

Cancer Biology Ph.D. Education Committee representative

_____ Date _____