Graduate Programs in Molecular Biosciences: Laboratory Rotations

Purpose of Rotations
Rotations provide one of the few opportunities during your scientific career to explore different fields of science before focusing in one area. You will learn how different approaches to scientific problems and will interact with a variety of colleagues, many of whom are likely to be helpful to you later in your career. While an eight-week rotation may not be enough time to achieve a great deal in the laboratory, you are expected to put forth a reasonable effort to make the rotation experience valuable—both to you and to the laboratory. This is a time for you to evaluate the lab as a place to do your thesis work, and a time for the lab to evaluate your scientific prowess. For all these reasons, the rotations should be taken seriously while you strive to maintain a healthy balance between your course work and time in the laboratory.

Schedule for 2013 - 2014
Students in the Graduate Programs in Molecular Biosciences are required to do three laboratory rotations, according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Rotation Form Due</th>
<th>Rotation Start Date</th>
<th>Rotation End Date</th>
<th>Rotation Summary Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>November 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>April 4</td>
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Upon completion of your third rotation, please notify your First Year Advisor and the Graduate Program office by April 7 of your selection of a thesis advisor. Once you have selected a thesis laboratory, you are expected to begin your research in that laboratory.

Setting Up Your Rotations
You have been given a list of faculty who are members of the Graduate Programs in Molecular Biosciences and are interested in taking rotation students this year. It is your responsibility to contact and schedule meetings with faculty members to set up your rotations. Your First Year Advisor can be very helpful as you consider your options! Once you have selected a rotation, please complete a Laboratory Rotation Form, which must be signed by your rotation advisor. At the end of a rotation you must complete a lab rotation form for them to sign, so your progress can be followed. Please go to the office of your advisor to obtain signatures on your rotation forms.

General Guidelines
- You are required to take a total of 6 rotation credits. In the Fall semester you will register for 4 credits; in the Spring semester you will register for 2.
- Do not set up all three rotations in the first weeks of graduate school. Focus on getting the first rotation started, then begin to explore other options as the semester progresses and you become more familiar with research opportunities on campus. Please regularly consult with your First Year Advisor as you consider your options!
- Before beginning a rotation, you must complete and submit a Lab Rotation Form. The faculty member who heads the lab in which you are rotating, as well as your First Year Advisor must sign these forms! Forms are due the Friday before each rotation begins (see due dates above) and should be delivered to Ms. Perry Dominguez, in the GSBS-RWJMS office in the RWJMS Research Tower, Room R102, Busch Campus.
- Upon completion of a rotation, you are required to write a one-page summary of your work in each rotation. The summary should include your name, the name of the lab, the dates of the rotation, the objectives of the work, what you did and any results of the work. The summary is to be presented to the Lab Head for his/her signature. The student should personally deliver a copy of the signed summary to Ms. Perry Dominguez in the GSBS-RWJMS office in the RWJMS Research Tower, Room R102, Busch Campus. Summaries are due one week after the end of each rotation (see due dates above).
- Upon completion of a rotation, a Rotation Evaluation Form should be given to the faculty member who supervised your rotation. These evaluations will be used by the First Year Advisors to monitor your progress in laboratory rotations.
- You should arrange your second and third rotations before the previous one ends, preferably two weeks in advance. Keep in mind that faculty travel schedules may make it difficult for you to obtain signatures close to deadlines, so plan ahead!
- You must rotate in a minimum of three labs. You cannot rotate in one lab twice!