Principles for Establishing Research Rotations
Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry Graduate Group

Approved: Educational Policy Committee May 19, 2009

Overview and Purpose:

Students in the Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry Graduate Group may, but are not required to, enter into a research rotation. This document provides guidance to students and faculty advisors regarding such rotations.

Establishing a Rotation:

Lab rotations are arranged on an individual basis between a graduate student and a faculty member. There is no uniform recommendation for the nature or duration of the rotation. Thus, it is critical that clear expectations are established about the scope of the rotation before it begins. Students should be aware that if they are being paid as a graduate student researcher (GSR) their major research advisor may face constraints that may limit or prevent the student from participating in a rotation in another lab while funded as a GSR.

Nature of Rotations:

There are many types and formats of lab rotations. Rotations might include one or more of the following components:

- attending research group meetings for individual faculty members,
- participating in regular individual meetings with faculty members as part of a guided library research or literature review project,
- learning a laboratory technique, typically working closely with a senior graduate student or a postdoctoral scholar,
- performing a self-contained research project in the host laboratory,
- assisting with or performing field studies in the host laboratory.

Obtaining Course Credit

Each of the above approaches may be eligible for course units in the form of independent study (XXX 299), group study (XXX 298) or research conference (XXX 290C) depending on their availability within the sponsoring faculty member's department (indicated by the abbreviation XXX).