

Fieberg Graduate Student Expectations¹

My expectations of you as a graduate student

I invest heavily in my graduate students, their projects, and their professional careers, often sacrificing my own re-search productivity and time with my family. In return, I ask that you also invest heavily in your project, the lab, and your career.

I expect you to read the primary literature in your area of study. You should read articles in scientific journals that are relevant to your work, in the general area of your work, or that look interesting to you. Although I will point you to relevant journals and/or articles, do not rely on me exclusively to point you to all relevant articles.

I expect PhD candidates to have submitted a minimum of two first-author peer-reviewed papers for publication before I sign off on their dissertations. These publications must be from research done while in our lab pursuing a PhD, not prior work. You may have additional works in preparation (not submitted as papers by the time of defense) for which you are expected to be the lead author. My hope is that you will remain committed to seeing these works through to publication after you defend your dissertation. I may reassign responsibility for lead authorship if your research is funded through a graduate assistantship (for which I serve as PI) if, in the year after you defend your dissertation, you do not demonstrate significant effort and commitment to publishing these works.

I expect that you will archive any computer code, and non-sensitive research data, once you have submitted papers for publication. The Data Repository for the University of Minnesota (DRUM: <https://www.lib.umn.edu/datamanagement/drum>) offers one possibility (it is free and also increases the chances that your work will be cited and that your data and code will be accessible and useful to others once you leave!).

I expect you to present the results of your research at one or more national meetings. You should actively pursue funding to support your travel expenses, but I will attempt to assist you whenever possible. The unequivocal condition for any financial travel assistance, however, is that I see a complete draft of what you will be presenting at least 7 days before the first day of the meeting.

I expect you to communicate to me concerns that you have about your research and/ or our interactions. Communication is critical for both of us to keep our relationship productive.

I expect that you be willing to contribute intellectually to the lab as a whole. We will meet regularly as a group to discuss papers and to present and discuss ongoing research. You will be expected to contribute to, and occasionally help lead, these sessions.

Outside of lab meetings, where and when you choose to do the majority of your work is up to you. What is most important is that you execute your research in a careful and precise, yet expeditious manner.

I expect you to treat me, and others in the lab, with respect and dignity.

¹I have adopted much of the language (and format) of this document directly from Noor, A. F. 2012. You're hired! Now What? A guide to new science faculty. Sinauer, Sunderland, MA.

My expectations of me as an advisor

I will always make time to talk with you about your research and your academic training. Although I will not be available at the drop of a hat, I will always be available for at least 30 minutes once a week for you with advance notice. It will generally be much more than that, but I will commit to a minimum of 30 minutes in even the worst weeks.

I will advise you on how to proceed according to the career path you select. Alternatively, if I am not familiar with the career path you have chosen, I will refer you to people and/or resources that can help to guide you.

I will read and comment on any manuscripts, grant applications, or other written materials you give me within two weeks (excluding theses or dissertations). It will generally be in less time than that, but I can guarantee within two weeks. Please get these to me at least this far in advance of your deadline.

I will provide you with resources for your research provided that they are available to me, your project has been approved, the expense is reasonable given the laboratory priorities, and you are actively pursuing further funding for it.

I will update you on my assessment of your progress, both in research and in your overall training upon request.

I will introduce you to others in the field and help you make contacts that will be useful throughout your career.

I will treat you with respect and dignity.