ACADEMIC POLICY SERIES 1630.10, STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND DEGREE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Cell & Molecular Biology

In the Fall 2005, the program in Cell & Molecular Biology enrolled 15 M.S. students and 39 Ph.D. students. During the 2006 graduation year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005 and Spring 2006), the program graduated seven M.S. students and six Ph.D. students. All of these students were evaluated by a faculty committee for the completion of the written thesis or dissertation and subjected to an oral examination by a faculty committee, as part of their degree completion. Additionally, each Ph.D. student was required to pass a written comprehensive exam before being admitted to candidacy. In the FY 06 year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006), three Ph.D. students were admitted to candidacy in the program.

Gerontology

In the Fall 2005, the certificate program in Gerontology enrolled one student. In the 2006 graduation year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006), the program did not produce a graduate. The academic progress of all certificate students is individually assessed by the Steering Committee.

Public Policy

In the Fall 2005, the Ph.D. program in Public Policy enrolled 61 students. During the 2006 graduation year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, and Spring 2006), the program graduated ten students. All of these students were evaluated by a faculty committee for the completion of the written dissertation and subjected to an oral examination by a faculty committee, as part of their degree completion. Additionally, each student was required to pass a written comprehensive exam before being admitted to candidacy. In the FY 06 year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006), five students were admitted to candidacy in the program.

Microelectronics-Photonics

In the Fall 2005, the program in Microelectronics-Photonics enrolled 30 M.S. students and 25 Ph.D. students. During the 2006 graduation year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, and Spring 2006), seven M.S. students and five Ph.D. students graduated. All of these students were evaluated by a faculty committee for the completion of the written dissertation and subjected to an oral examination by a faculty committee, as part of their degree completion. Additionally, each Ph.D. student was required to pass a written comprehensive examination. In the FY 06 year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006), one Ph.D. student was admitted to candidacy in the program.

Space & Planetary Sciences

In the Fall 2005, the program in Space & Planetary Sciences enrolled one M.S. student and seven Ph.D. students, bringing total enrollment to eight. During the 2006 graduation year (Summer 2005, Fall 2005, and Spring 2006), one M.S. student and one Ph.D. student graduated, and two Ph.D. students enrolled; in Fall 2006, a further seven Ph.D. students enrolled, bringing current enrollment to sixteen. Also, in the 2006 graduation year, one Ph.D. student was admitted to candidacy in the program.

All students are subject to an annual progress review by a faculty committee in the spring of each year. Additionally, each Ph.D. student is required to pass an examination before being admitted to candidacy. Students are required to submit a 2500 word essay on a theme chosen by their committee and present an oral defense of the essay. As part of their degree completion, all students are evaluated by a faculty committee for the completion of the written dissertation and subjected to an oral examination by a faculty committee.

Our graduate program is designed to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of space and planetary science research. This type of training is particularly relevant for those who seek careers in this field as evidenced in several major reports in recent years. The program involves required courses in planetary astronomy (taught by the physics department), planetary atmospheres (geosciences and chemical engineering), planetary geology (geosciences), astrobiology (chemistry & biochemistry, biology), and astronautics (mechanical engineering), and electives from within these areas. It also requires completion of a specially designed laboratory course in the student's first semester that underscores the interdisciplinary nature of the field. Development of personal and professional skills, of an international perspective, and of space policy is covered in a second semester course. All Ph.D. candidates are also required to undertake an internship at some point in their training preferably at a government or national laboratory. Monthly meetings of program faculty enable regular monitoring of the program as a whole.