The Department of Biology –
Outline of Learning goals and Objectives for Graduate Students

The Department of Biology is committed to student learning and to providing the highest quality educational experience for its graduate students. It is in the mutual interest of faculty and graduate students that an advanced degree from our department be recognized worldwide as evidence of outstanding scholarship. Our program is designed to allow students to acquire and demonstrate research competence, communication skills, breadth and depth of knowledge, proper professional conduct, and teaching/mentoring ability.

The use of both direct and indirect sources of evidence of student performance (outlined in more detail below) allows us to provide better learning opportunities for students, improve teaching, and offer more effective academic support services (e.g., workshops on grant writing, career opportunities, scientific ethics).

**General learning goals and objectives for coursework M.S., thesis M.S., and Ph.D. programs in Biology, Tufts University, MA students should be able to:**

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding and/or competency in a specific area of study
- Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, and communication to solve problems and to produce original research in the form of thesis or dissertation (thesis in only for the Ph.D. and thesis M.S. degrees)
- Show evidence of the ability to critically evaluate scientific works
- Demonstrate the ability to perform teaching and mentoring activities
- Exhibit an awareness of their responsibilities (professional integrity, ethical behavior, ability to work with diverse groups of peoples, etc.) and engage in professional conduct towards all constituent groups, including students, faculty, public, etc.

A thorough evaluation of degree candidates enrolled in our graduate program is conducted throughout their tenure in our department. We have designed a set of learning assessment procedures that are consistent with the goals and requirements of our program listed above.