f. Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training

**The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC)**

OUHSC is a comprehensive health sciences campus located in Oklahoma City. Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, Nursing and Allied Health train students for professional practice and the clinics and hospitals of OU Medicine provide clinical care. The campus strategic plan is highly focused on research and well-funded Centers for Cancer, Diabetes and Geroscience together with individual Departments provide a rich environment for research and research training. The Graduate College oversees approximately 300 students enrolled in research-based graduate programs leading to MS or PhD degrees.

**Research facilities and environment**

As described in the Facilities and Resources and Equipment sections, there are a large number of shared Core Facilities available to support the students’ research. Three COBRE grants (two at OUHSC and one at OU Norman with components at OUHSC) and an INBRE grant awarded to OUHSC provide significant support to these facilities, especially in upgrading equipment to national standards. Additional Core Facilities are available to trainees in the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), a non-profit research institution across the street from the OUHSC campus. OMRF faculty have adjunct appointments at OUHSC and they train OUHSC graduate students in their labs.

**Graduate Program in Biological Sciences (GPiBS)**

GPiBS is a first-year umbrella program that enrolled its first class in 2000 and continues to evolve and flourish with institutional support from six graduate departments (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Physiology). First year GPiBS students’ stipend, tuition and fees and medical insurance are supported by the OUHSC Graduate College (1/3 of costs), participating departments (1/3), and OMRF (1/3). When students choose a lab at the end of their first year the mentor becomes responsible for the student’s support and the student enrolls in a graduate program with which the mentor is affiliated; one of the six Department-based programs or Neuroscience. All students receive a stipend ($27,000 in 2020), tuition and fees and health insurance until they graduate. There are currently 78 former GPiBS students carrying out research with 57 mentors in well-funded, well equipped laboratories.

The GPiBS program has a faculty Director and Assistant Director and a dedicated staff person who help the students navigate the first year of training and who continue mentorship as students progress through their graduate careers. Senior graduate students also help mentor incoming students. Each student is provided library and network access and free software such as Microsoft Office and several statistical/data analysis packages. During the last two decades, 126 PhD students have graduated from the GPiBS program. The average time for graduation is five years and the average number of publications per PhD graduate is five.

The GPiBS program was reviewed, along with the associated graduate programs, in 2018. The internal and external reviewer panels found the program to be strong and effective and recommended expanding the number of students from the current 20. Based on this recommendation, institutional commitment was increased to enroll 24 students per year from 2019.

**The XXX Graduate Program**

The first year GPiBS curriculum consists of 23 hours of basic coursework, the RCR course, a Methods course, an Animal Use course, a Journal Club, a Statistics course and up to six laboratory rotations.

Second year courses:

Grant-writing course or training:

Qualifying Examination:

Journal Clubs:

Seminar program; meeting with visiting speakers:

Frequency of dissertation committee meetings:

Student presentations of their research:

Annual evaluation of progress:

Advanced RCR course

Role of the Program Director/Graduate College Liaison

Status of the F31 applicant in the program

**Institutional Commitment to Graduate Training:**

The OUHSC Student Services department, centrally located in the Student Union building, provides a host of student activities, resources and services. All of these are available to graduate students and facilitate connections with other students. Of particular note are the recently-expanded Student Counseling Services, which can immediately refer students to the OU Medicine clinics when needed, and the Disability Resource Center. The Writing Center complements the Graduate College course “Fundamentals of Scientific Writing”.

The OUHSC Graduate College commits funds to a broad range of professional and career development programs for trainees at all levels. These include include monthly 1 hour seminars or 2-3 hour workshops on topics such as communicating science, networking, handling stress, career planning. All graduate students complete an IDP and discuss it with their mentor, and update it each year. The Graduate College collaborates with the Price School of Business to provide workshops on technology development and entrepreneurial practices, and with the Robert M. Bird Library to provide online courses such as Nature Master Classes. The Graduate College also offers the Preparing Future Faculty program with a two credit hour course followed by practical experience.

Every year the Graduate College organizes the 4-day Graduate Research, Education and Technology (GREAT) symposium. Students submit abstracts to present their research to the whole campus either in a 10 minute talk or a poster, and in addition they can present a three-minute flash talk. Panels of two faculty and one senior student or postdoc judge every session and the winners receive travel awards of $200 (flash talks) to $1000 (oral or posters) or $1,500 (overall winners). In 2019 these awards totaled $24,500.

Students are encouraged to apply for individual fellowships, and the Graduate College provides a bonus up to $2,000 pa for students who successfully compete for national Fellowships. OUHSC also has T32 training grants: “Molecular Basis of Immunity” (PI: Madeleine Cunningham) supports three predoctoral and one post-doctoral trainees, “GeroScience Training Program in Oklahoma” (PI William Sonntag) supports 3 pre-doctoral students and 4 post-doctoral fellows. Pending renewal is “Cellular and Molecular Cascades in Vision Research” (PI: Michelle Callegan) supporting two predoctoral and one post-doctoral trainees.

Overall, the campus is highly committed to providing resources and an excellent environment for training the next generation of scientists.

Information for this section was provided by xxx, Graduate Program Director