

Population Biology Graduate Group

Bylaws of the Population Biology Graduate Group

Amended and Approved: February 1, 1994

I. Definition of the Graduate Group in Population Biology

The purpose of this graduate group is to bring together faculty and graduate students interested in population biology and to maintain a rigorous graduate curriculum in this discipline.

We define population biology as that discipline in which the population is the primary unit of study. We emphasize a unified approach that blends the concepts of ecology, evolution, population genetics and systematics in the single discipline of population biology, as represented by the research of the members of the Center for Population Biology. Related fields for which separate training programs are underway are not included, such as ecosystem ecology, conservation biology and animal behavior.

II. Membership

Faculty who are members of the Center for Population Biology (hereafter the Center) will automatically be members of the Graduate Group in Population Biology (hereafter the Group). Other faculty whose primary research is in population biology may be nominated for membership by the Population Biology Steering Committee (Hereafter the Steering Committee). Nomination must be approved by ballots mailed to the Group faculty. To be admitted, nominees must be supported by a majority of the votes cast. The membership of the Group will be reviewed by the Population Biology Steering Committee every three years. To remain in good standing, in each review period, members are expected to:

A. Teach a course (excluding seminars consisting entirely of student presentations) in the graduate curriculum, either Population Biology 200 or another advanced course suitable for Population Biology students.

AND B. Lead a "monte Carlo" seminar.

AND C. Participate in the Group's administrative duties, such as serving on Group committees (e.g., the Steering Committee, Admissions Committee, etc.), administering the first-year exam, and advising. Serving as major professor or on a thesis committee is not sufficient to guarantee continued membership.

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III. Group Administration

- A. The Group and the Center are jointly administered by the Population Biology Steering Committee. We view the Center and the Group as complementary structures, with the Center focusing on research and the Group focusing on graduate teaching.
- B. The Steering Committee will consist of eight members: the Director of the Center, the Chair of the Group, the Chair of the Group Admissions Committee, the Chair of the Group Curriculum Committee, the Chair of the Center Research Support Committee, two at-large faculty members, and a student representative elected by the Group Student Association. At least two faculty members on the Steering Committee must be from outside the Division of Biological Sciences. The Director of the Center and Chair of the Group will jointly chair the Steering Committee.
- C. The at-large members of the Steering Committee will serve three-year terms. New members will be nominated by the Steering Committee and approved by mail ballot of the Group faculty.
- D. Meetings of the Steering Committee will be held at the call of its chairs, at least once per year.
- E. Functions of the Steering Committee pertinent to the Group:
 - 1. Recommend to the Graduate Council the requirements for obtaining a graduate degree in Population Biology;
 - 2. Evaluate teaching (by meeting with the graduate students and instructors each year) and approve content of the core courses required by the Group;
 - 3. Approve additional courses for the curriculum from the courses taught by UCD that include population-biology topics;
 - 4. Appoint Group advisors;
 - 5. Oversee the design and administration of the first-year exam;
 - 6. Set qualifying exam policy;
 - 7. Oversee admission of graduate students;
 - 8. Approve members for standing committees, appoint ad hoc committees, and delegate duties to members as the need arises.
- F. All actions taken by the Steering Committee are subject to approval by the Group, except appointment of its subcommittees and matters in which authority has been delegated by the Group.

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- G. The Group will have three permanent committees: admissions, curriculum and advising. The members of each will be chosen by the Group Chair and approved by the Steering Committee. These committees will report periodically (at least annually) to the Steering Committee. The admissions and curriculum committees will each have a graduate student member. The function of each committee is as follows:
- a. Admissions Committee members will review applications of prospective students and make recommendations concerning admissions and fellowships.
 - b. Curriculum Committee members will review course offerings, review requirements for M.S. and Ph.D. students, and suggest new course as appropriate.
 - c. Faculty advisors will review study programs of all graduate students to insure that Group requirements are met and that satisfactory progress is being made.

Amendment of By-Laws

The guidelines of the Group may be added to, amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of all Group members present, provided a written notice of the amendment shall have been sent to each member of the Group at least five days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is moved.