

Beaudry Group Research Expectations for Graduate Students

1. Graduate school is one of the most rewarding periods in a scientist's career. It is the only time you will be able to completely focus on finding a solution to a single difficult problem. It is a stimulating, frustrating, exhausting, and exhilarating experience.
2. First and foremost, graduate students at OSU are expected to maintain an active presence in the laboratory. This is why you are here. This means consistently running chemical experiments even when teaching, taking classes, preparing for presentations, etc. For beginning students, you should be able to properly conduct a single experiment every day (about 6 per week). Advanced students are able to conduct three experiments every day. This requires that students work one day on the weekend and evenings during the week. This is standard practice everywhere I've been.
3. You are expected to be honest and conduct research with the highest level of scientific integrity. Any attempts to falsify data, misrepresent your research in your lab notebook, artificially manipulate spectra, lie, or behave in a dishonest manner will not be tolerated.
4. Graduate students at OSU are expected to be safe. If you do not understand how to safely conduct an experiment, how to use a particular chemical, or how to use a piece of equipment you should ask me. I am not too busy to help you.
5. Reading the literature must be part of your day. Regularly reading papers is crucial to learning modern organic chemistry and appreciating how the field is evolving. If you ignore the literature it is highly unlikely you will pass your cumulative exams, successfully pass your seminar (CH 633), generate ideas for independent proposals, pass your qualifying exam, or interview well. I recommend you read at least one paper per day (with paper and a pencil), looking up everything that is unfamiliar.
6. My expectation is that you will take one full day off per week to enjoy the surroundings, get outside, blow off steam, develop outside interests, have fun with friends, or simply relax. I sincerely believe that you will be happier and more effective if you take a complete day off once a week. I also encourage you to take up to three weeks of vacation per year. This can be all at once or spread out as you see fit.
7. You are expected to find satisfaction in what you are working on. This does not mean loving every minute of your day, but it means that you find your project interesting and worth your time and effort. I expect that you will maintain a healthy and constructive attitude about science.