Interested in becoming a trainer in the Bacteriology MS Program?

The Bacteriology MS Program is always looking to add new faculty trainers who are interested in providing training opportunities for students in the research option of the program. We realize many faculty are not entirely familiar with our program and therefore have outlined many of the requirements and expectations below. Also, please refer to our website for additional information (https://bact.wisc.edu/pro_ms.php and https://bact.wisc.edu/pro_ms.php?i=ms4 for the research track option specifically.

Many of our students in the research track are very capable and enter the program to explore what it means to be a research scientist. They are looking for an experience to get an in-depth understanding of what it means to do research. Our students go on to obtain PhDs, to transition into professional training (medical, law, business, etc) or to directly enter the job market.

Note that unlike most PhD programs on campus, we do not accept students into the research track until they have identified a lab in which to work. Therefore, trainers may be contacted by interested students prior to their admittance to the program. Once a student has identified a research mentor, then the formal application process begins. Alternatively, applications for research track students can be pre-approved as acceptable by the MS program committee, but pre-approved students will only be admitted once they have identified a research mentor.

Once a student joins a laboratory as a Bact MS research track student, it is expected that the student will be provided space and training in the mentor's lab. It is not required that MS students are supported financially by the lab, so we outline here the potential options:

1. A student can be supported by the laboratory as a Research Assistant ($\leq$ 50%). For the student to be eligible for benefits such as health insurance, at least 33% support is required. In this model, labs will be responsible for tuition remission that covers coursework and independent research credits. Research Assistants are expected to work full time towards their degree, which includes labwork and coursework.
2. A student can be funded through other opportunities on campus, such as through TA or PA positions. There are many such opportunities available and it is expected that faculty will assist students in identifying and obtaining such support if desired. Such positions usually provide tuition remission and these students are eligible for benefits such as healthcare. Students being supported in this way will split their time between responsibilities to their support (e.g. TA associated work) and program work (i.e. labwork and coursework). The typical split is about 40% teaching and 60% program activities although this split can vary depending on the specific job.
3. A student not supported through either of the above mechanisms, may be supporting their education personally by paying tuition for credits taken. In this situation, it is expected that the laboratory is responsible for providing space and training to the student, but no personal financial support. Students supporting themselves will often have outside jobs, and thus their time to do work towards their degree (i.e. labwork and coursework) is likely to be considerably less than full time, and time to degree will be increased accordingly.

Expectations for completion of the research track MS degree include carrying out independent research that will contribute to a publication from the lab (it can be a subset of another project, but should be an identifiable entity of work), writing a proposal and thesis describing proposed and completed work, and a final oral exam by a research committee. See the website for coursework and additional requirements. Full time students are expected to complete the degree in about 2 years, but depending on other obligations (such as other jobs on or off campus), timing may be longer.