



## Graduate Education

**THE MISSION** of the University Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs is to **promote** graduate education broadly at the University towards attracting students poised to make an **impact** upon the world, provide a high quality educational and research experience, and foster **supportive** training environments such that our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars can **learn, discover, heal, and create**.

The University of Rochester offers over 50 PhD degrees in different programs. While each program offers unique training, there are four overarching goals of the graduate education curriculum.

### Graduate Learning Outcomes (PhD)

The goals four goals: knowledge, research and scholarship, communication, and professional development support the mission of graduate education.

Graduate Learning Outcomes	Examples
<b>Knowledge</b> of core concepts and principles of the specific discipline within the student's chosen program of study.	Research-in-progress seminars; performance in coursework; performance on qualifying exam; comprehensive exam; Thesis document and oral defense; publications; creative endeavors and research, resulting in original work that is disseminated orally/aurally and

	through publication, original thesis and defense that articulates the impact of the work on the discipline and/or in the community
<b>Research, Scholarship and Performance</b> skills to define a specific problem or unanswered question, describe studies conducted to gather necessary data or develop methodology to address this problem or question, describe approaches to analyze and interpret the data obtained or to assess the methodology, and discuss the implications of these findings.	Research-in-progress seminars; Annual committee meetings and evaluations; Performance on qualifying exam; Thesis document and oral defense; Peer reviewed publications; case studies; Acquisition of awards, grants and fellowships; Post graduation employment in the academy and in health/business/industry public and private sectors
Ability to <b>Communicate</b> results of research, scholarship and performance to colleagues and the public through oral/audiovisual and written work.	Research-in-progress seminars; Annual committee meetings and evaluations; Performance on qualifying exam; Thesis document and oral defense; presentations at departmental colloquia; Peer reviewed publications; acquisition of grants and fellowships; Presentations at local, national and international meetings
Prepare and <b>Develop</b> students for immediate integration into the <b>Professional</b> career for which they have been trained.	Pedagogical training and mentoring, Acquisition of awards, grants and fellowships; Service (locally or nationally); Post graduation employment and service; Post graduation publications and creative endeavors; TA experience; Participation in internships

## Graduate Learning Outcomes (PhD): Dissertation Defense

After the oral defense, each faculty member of each final oral defense committee completes an evaluation of the rigor of the defense process and of the candidate's degree of achievement of the University's PhD Learning Outcomes. Because the PhD degree is granted by the University rather than by the individual schools, end-of-program PhD learning outcomes that apply to all disciplines are identified and assessed at the University level.

As part of these learning outcomes, the University PhD graduate must have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Select and defend important problem or topic for study
2. Demonstrate mastery of relevant knowledge in the field
3. Apply rigorous methods of the discipline
4. Produce a valuable contribution to the field
5. Communicate effectively in academic writing
6. Effectively defend the work when questioned