SELECTING A MAJOR PROFESSOR - M.S. BIOLOGY PROGRAM

Timely completion of your thesis research is critical for finishing your graduate program in an efficient manner. Some students have had prior contact with faculty and have chosen their Major Professor before their first semester! If this is the case, you need to immediately proceed to defining your research project and writing your prospectus.

ALL new students, whether or not you have already chosen a major professor, need to sign up for Independent Study (BIOL 5900 or HSCI 5900, 1 credit hour) under the direction of the graduate coordinator. You will earn this credit by reviewing faculty research interests on the departmental WEB page, interviewing 3-4 faculty members and writing a 1-2 paragraph summary of their research interests that is due mid-term, and finally selecting a Major Professor and submitting a draft or annotated outline of your research prospectus to the graduate coordinator by the end of the semester. If you already have a major professor, you may use these interviews to help decide on other members of your advisory committee, or just to get to know other faculty in the program.