

Graduate School-New Brunswick  
Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment

The Graduate School-New Brunswick trains students at an advanced level in specific fields of study.

Goal 1.           Marked ability and scholarship in a broad field of learning

Assessment 1.

- Grades in graduate courses
- Qualifying examinations assessing depth and breadth of knowledge
- Review by faculty of student progress and close advising and mentoring

Enhancing Effectiveness 1.

- Best practices sessions with graduate program directors
- Regular meetings with individual program directors

Evaluation 1.

- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
  - o If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
  - o By program faculty
  - o With leadership of GSNB
  - o Via curricular review by school-wide faculty committees and Graduate Faculty Through exit surveys completed by students upon graduation

Goal 2.           Engage in original research

Assessments 2.

- Preparation of and defense of Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation
  - o Public defense of dissertation
  - o Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty members and a committee member from outside of the specific Rutgers graduate program.
  - o Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers

Enhancing Effectiveness 2.

- Early introduction to research methods and active research
- Opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Participation in Ph.D. Completion Project of Council of Graduate Schools

Evaluation 2.

- Individual program reviews
- Collection of data, including time-to-degree and rates of completion
- Surveys of graduate students and follow-up with programs
- Review and distribution of national surveys

Goal 3. Preparation of Future Faculty Members and Professionals

Assessment 3.

- Collection of placement data
- Collection of data on learning outcomes from participation in future faculty programs as evidenced by the focus on assessment in all CASTL and TAP endeavors

Enhancing Effectiveness 3.

- Teaching Assistant Project
- CASTL Project

Evaluation 3.

- Student responses to evaluation sheets distributed at all conferences and workshops and in classes such as Introduction to College Teaching