

Where to Get Help:

Major Advisor:

Will vary by student.

Role: Mentor graduate students and help them fulfill degree requirements, complete thesis research, provide guidance on professional development.

Thesis Committee:

Will vary by student.

Role: Provide research and professional guidance to the graduate student in addition to (and beyond) the advice provided by the mentor.

Director of Graduate Studies:

Jessica Santollo (j.santollo@uky.edu)

Role: Responsible for all department level issues related to graduate education.

Biology Department Chair:

David Weisrock (david.weisrock@uky.edu)

Role: Responsible for all operations within the department, which includes graduate education.

“Sister Department” Director of Graduate Studies:

Katherine Thompson (katherine.thompson@uky.edu)

Role: DGS for Statistics. If you have an issue but want to discuss it with a faculty member outside of our department but don't want to bring it to an Associate Dean, Dr. Thompson is there to assist.

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies:

Mark Meier (meier@uky.edu)

Role: Responsible for all college level issues related to graduate education. Excellent resource if the student does not feel comfortable getting help from within the department.

University of Kentucky Ombud:

Alice Turkington (ombud@uky.edu)

Role: Responsible for resolving academic related problems and conflicts for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution or for which no established procedure exists. The two major areas of activity for Academic Ombud Services include student academic rights and violations of academic integrity.

More broad options include:

Biology Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:

Current Members include: Kyra Liedtke, Robyn Allen, Oliver Voecking, Ann Morris, Nicholas McLetchie, Erin Richard, Jessica Santollo, Eve Schneider, Philip Skipwith, Jeremy Van Cleve (dei.biology@uky.edu)

Role: Address structural issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all members of the Biology department. If the nature of the conflict is the result of discrimination, the DEI committee should be consulted.

BGSA Faculty Advisor:

Jeremy Van Cleve (jvancleve@uky.edu)

Role: Support the graduate students on a group and individual level. Help graduate students deal with bureaucratic issues.

Another Biology Faculty Member:

Role: Support the educational and research missions for the department. The wellbeing of graduate students is key to success for these goals.