Last updated: Dec 2018

**Graduate Student Mentoring Plan**

Merkle Research Group

Department of Zoology and Physiology

University of Wyoming

The following mentoring plan is an agreement between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student) and Dr. Jerod Merkle (advisor), dated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The objective of this mentoring plan is to:

1. detail the expectations of the student and advisor,
2. Outline how the student’s program of study and research will unfold, and
3. Provide a means to assess productivity and success.

This document is subject to review and update every 6 months. Students are expected to take the lead in developing the plan and keeping it updated. This document has 7 sections as follows:

**Section 1. Expectations**

**Expectations of the advisor**:

* Adhere to The Merkle Research Group’s Vision, Philosophy, policies and expectations.
* Provide financial support (stipend, travel, research funding, etc.) whenever possible.
* Provide logistical support (permits, field vehicles, research assistants, office supplies, etc.) whenever possible.
* Facilitate collaborations when applicable.
* Assist with the design and implementation of the student’s research.
* Proofread manuscripts, grant proposals, and presentations in a timely fashion.
* Meet with the student to discuss the student’s research project and other aspects of ecology on a regular basis.
* Hold the student to high standards while encouraging efficiency and completion of projects.
* Provide an attentive ear and moral support.
* Provide career advice and assist in finding positions for students after graduation.

**Expectations of the student**:

* Adhere to The Merkle Research Group’s Vision, Philosophy, policies and expectations.
* Be responsible for department paperwork for program progress and graduation (including taking the correct number of classes and forming your graduate committee). In other words, the student is responsible for complying with all institutional policies, including academic program milestones.
* Take care of paperwork for travel, purchasing, annual reports, and related logistical items related to the student’s project.
* Work with the advisor to search and apply for funding (via grants), when necessary or relevant.
* Update Jerod Merkle on progress (or meet) each week.
* Become familiar with the primary, secondary, and most recent literature related to the student’s project.
* Maintain detailed, organized, and accurate records of the research conducted (most importantly, documenting your work via clean, organized, and repeatable R code).
* Publish thesis or dissertation chapters in a timely manner in top-tier peer-reviewed journals.
* Present results at professional conferences (both local and national), and at meetings run by relevant partners and collaborators.

**Section 2. Student goals (short-term, long-term, research, and career)**:

**Section 3. Work plan (how is the student going to achieve the goals? When to expect parts of the student’s program of study and research to be completed. This should be a semester by semester list of bulleted items)**:

**Section 4. Publication plans**:

**Section 5. Funding**:

**Section 6. Professional conference and outreach plans**:

**Section 7. Coursework plan**:

**Signatures**: Signatures below indicate a thorough understanding and mutual agreement to this mentoring plan.

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Graduate student Date

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Advisor (Jerod Merkle) Date