

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

SUCCESS GUIDE

Tips to succeed a challenging & rewarding endeavor





PURSUE IF YOU ARE DETERMINED

- Know your ideal, precise career fit before committing time and money
- Determine whether a graduate degree is beneficial in your chosen field
- Research employment outlook for your field
- Weigh against other life aspects and be sure the timing is right

INVEST IN YOURSELF

- Select a reputable program at an accredited university
- Identify companies you might want to work for, follow their developments, and start network outreach (follow on LinkedIn, etc.)
- Keep textbooks for future reference if they teach relevant and enduring principles
- Regularly make use of the university's career services

PLAN YOUR FINANCING

- Explore whether an employer offers tuition reimbursement
- Student loan payments may remain on hold until you complete degree work
- Utilize the financial aid office
- Research and identify scholarship opportunities within or outside of the school

EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

- Submit your papers to be published in credible journals or blogs
- Take advantage of office hours to pick your professor's brain
- Take on as many internships and research rotations as you can handle
- Read everything of value you can related to your field

THINK CRITICALLY AND OBJECTIVELY

- Push your personal boundaries to achieve growth
- Attend key conferences or talks in your field



SHARPEN YOUR NETWORKING SKILLS

- People you meet may be professional connections throughout career
- Hone your people skills; be perceived as positive
- Follow industry leaders on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter)
- Communicate often with your research advisor/boss

FOLLOW A SCHEDULE

- Take advantage of flexibility, but schedule class and study times
- Stick to this schedule as if you were attending on campus
- Pick a space in your home that is only for completing school work

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Get sleep, exercise regularly, and eat healthy
- Establish a routine that includes activities important to your happiness
- Consult a student success coach or advisor if you are distressed about your courses

STAY FOCUSED

- Understand returning to school requires limiting your social life
- Make time for family and friends, but set boundaries
- Manage outlets such as social media, television, and other distractions

TEMPER YOUR EXPECTATIONS

- Accept that a career change or advancement can sometimes be a long journey
- Life happens; accept that your completion deadline may change due to unforeseen circumstances