

Welcome to Graduate School

Graduate Skill Seminar notes

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What is graduate school?

- development of technical mastery
- training in research and scholarship
- PhD: training to be a professor or equivalent
- Advisor is your main mentor, but you learn from many sources

Graduate school --- and academia, and life --- require balancing many different skills, tasks, and goals. Many of these skills are things you might not have even realized were important when you signed up for grad school, and your advisor probably hasn't had time to explain all of them to you either. You don't need to master all of the skills listed here right away. But you do need to be aware of them and their importance.

If you have worked at a "real job," many of these skills will come much easier.

MOST IMPORTANT:

- **you must take responsibility for your own success**
- this isn't like undergrad, where you can succeed just by doing what you're told
- figure out what you need to do, and do it
- * Doing research
 - * The *process* is important, and an important skill
 - * Failure is an important part of the process
 - * (It's only failure if you don't learn something from it)
- * Communicating your work
 - * Writing papers
 - * Giving Talks
 - * Marketing/Networking
 - * These are all CRUCIAL. It is not enough just to do good work. You need to get it out there as well.
- * Managing your advisor
 - * How do you work with your advisor and get the most out of them?
 - * Your advisor is your more important professional relationship. All relationships require some effort.
- * Health and Balance

- * Fitness and happiness, aside from their intrinsic benefits, are important to doing good work as well
- * Community
- * Time Management
 - * Requires both discipline and picking the right tools to manage time
- * Teaching
- * When do you leave grad school?
 - * You don't want to be a lifer
- * Career planning
 - * Do you want an academic or industrial career?
 - * This may affect decisions you make later in grad school
- * Ethics and duties
- * Dealing with interpersonal conflict