

Graduate School: the partnership between student and major professor (m.p.).

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	Grad student responsibility	Major professor responsibility
Coursework planning	Study catalog and requirements and discuss with m.p.	Discuss
Coursework execution	Sole responsibility; respectable performance	None
Graduate committee selection	Make short list of possible committee members from inside and outside of department. Meet with prospective committee members and be prepared to discuss your research and career goals. Share a written research plan if you have one. Get list of "Grad Reps" from Graduate School (online).	Suggest possibilities. Review list of possible Grad Reps.
Research funding	variable; some students arrange for their own funding (e.g. NSF fellowship) or working through a government agency contact	variable; often acquire funds for a project that becomes part of a student's thesis
Research planning	Collaborate with m.p.; organize thoughts into concrete written research plan, outline, or proposal; take ownership and apply in-depth creative thinking. Develop specific benchmarks and timelines.	Collaborate; provide feedback on written and verbal plans
Research execution	Primary responsibility; the research project should be of primary importance, even when coursework or TA work seems more pressing.	Provide training and consultation
Departmental and other on-campus seminars	Participate regularly; seek opportunities to attend relevant seminars in other departments	Sponsor opportunities for graduate seminar participation.
Initiative	Show initiative and creativity in your work, beyond what would be expected of a research technician.	Provide a context and sounding board for student initiatives.
Communication	Respond in timely fashion to phone and email; keep major professor informed on progress (request regular meetings if warranted); seek advice as needed from major professor, other grad students, office staff, Graduate School, and committee.	Timely response to phone and email; provide advice as needed. Request regular meetings if warranted.
Career development opportunities	Attend workshops, scientific meetings, trainings, and discussion groups that are relevant to the student's area of interest.	Provide notice of upcoming workshops, meetings, trainings, and discussions; sponsor such activities
Writing	Outline thesis well in advance of writing. Write thesis as publishable manuscript(s), completing drafts in plenty of time for feedback, first from major professor, second from graduate committee.	Provide timely feedback (1-2 week turnaround on manuscripts or outlines) for multiple drafts, as needed.
Follow-up	Request letters of recommendation or reference as needed; provide current C.V. and information on the position being sought.	Write letters of recommendation as requested; provide phone interviews by prospective employers as requested.