

Chart Your Course!

A STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR MASTER'S STUDENT SUCCESS



Use this roadmap to chart your course from your first semester of graduate studies to the completion of your thesis or project.

This guide lists the kinds of activities, programs, and projects in which you ought to engage during your graduate school sojourn.

While not every item in this guide will apply to every graduate student, use this resource to plan ahead, best allocate your time, and map your own path to success.

	EARLY STAGE	MIDDLE STAGE	FINAL STAGE
Research Skills and Knowledge	☐ Develop broad-based knowledge of your field ☐ Determine a broader topic for your thesis (if your program requires one) ☐ Identify and develop tools and skills needed for research ☐ Complete safety and other required training ☐ Learn about Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) ☐ Learn how to use citation manager software ☐ Identify supervisory committee members if thesis is required ☐ Learn about rigor and reproducibility in research	☐ Start writing articles for publication (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Develop thesis proposal or project proposal/prospectus ☐ Learn proper data management ☐ Continue to develop expertise and skills ☐ Engage in heavy data gathering ☐ Complete data visualization training	☐ Write thesis (if your program requires one) ☐ Practice presenting your thesis to peers and faculty (if your program requires one) ☐ Ensure appropriate storage and access of data and protocols ☐ Publish research (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Develop independent research plan (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Complete comprehensive exams
Management and Leadership	☐ Join professional society in your field ☐ Volunteer for organizations and conferences in your field ☐ Develop a funding plan and apply for fellowships and grants ☐ Help organize events	☐ Explore mentoring opportunities ☐ Seek out and lead collaborative efforts ☐ Attend leadership and management development training ☐ Apply for thesis/research fellowships and grants	☐ Engage in peer mentoring ☐ Apply for doctoral fellowships and grants (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Develop entrepreneurial skills
Effectiveness and Purpose	☐ Familiarize yourself with city and campus resources ☐ Learn expectations of department and campus culture ☐ Devise time management strategies ☐ Devise wellness strategies ☐ Identify the purpose and goals of your graduate education ☐ Practice self-care	☐ Identify values and compatible career options ☐ Enhance emotional intelligence ☐ Evaluate skills and areas for improvement ☐ Revisit and revise time management strategies ☐ Practice self-care	☐ Devise a thesis writing schedule (if your program requires one) ☐ Practice self-care
Professionalism	☐ Identify and build relationships with mentors ☐ Establish mutual expectations with your advisor ☐ Learn proper conference attendance etiquette ☐ Participate in conferences, seminars, and department events ☐ Identify and address different leadership and work styles ☐ Identify international opportunities ☐ Practice cultural awareness and inclusion ☐ Identify and adhere to norms or professional conduct in your field	☐ Strengthen and expand network ☐ Find out about local and international funding ☐ Engage or serve in student organizations and community outreach ☐ Attend conferences in your field ☐ Expand your pool of mentors and peers ☐ Gain international experience ☐ Develop social media presence	☐ Present at conferences specific to your field ☐ Network for diverse career options ☐ Be a positive representative of school and field ☐ Promote accomplishments on social media ☐ Create ePortfolio
Communication	☐ Attend teaching assistant workshops (if you have a teaching assistantship) ☐ Visit the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication ☐ Take a proposal writing course ☐ Learn your field’s publications, submission standards, and writing styles ☐ Visit Writing Studio ☐ Craft your own professional “elevator pitch”	☐ Serve as a teaching assistant or teach course ☐ Attend communication workshops ☐ Form or join a writing group and engage in peer editing ☐ Present at conferences specific to your field ☐ Present to “general public” audiences and engage in outreach ☐ Refine your “elevator pitch”	☐ Write early career proposal/fellowship application (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Complete PhD application materials (if you plan to advance to a PhD) ☐ Deliver your elevator pitch
Career Advancement	☐ Explore career options ☐ Meet with career services ☐ Set up LinkedIn profile ☐ Research internships ☐ Start to build an intentional network	☐ Attend networking events and workshops ☐ Update curriculum vitae/résumé ☐ Research career options inside and outside of academia ☐ Contact potential collaborators and employers ☐ Do internship or externship ☐ Cultivate relationships in your intentional network	☐ Narrow down career options ☐ Review curriculum vitae or résumé with mentors and colleagues ☐ Attend career fairs and interview/negotiation workshops ☐ Refine LinkedIn profile ☐ Prepare job application materials ☐ Apply for any necessary visas ☐ Sharpen interview skills

CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Career Connections Center

1300 J Wayne Reitz Union (655 Museum Road)
352 392 1601
go.ufl.edu/ccs

Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

200 Walker Hall (14898 Union Road)
352 392 0796
go.ufl.edu/cfth

Center for Teaching Excellence

200 Bryant Space Science Center (1772 Stadium Road)
352 294 0811
go.ufl.edu/teach

Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road
352 392 1575
go.ufl.edu/cwc

Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication

402 Rolfs Hall (341 Buckman Drive)
352 392 5421
go.ufl.edu/cwoc

Disability Resource Center

001 Reid Hall (1316 Museum Road)
352 392 8565
go.ufl.edu/drc

GatorWell Health Promotion Services

1100 J Wayne Reitz Union (655 Museum Road)
352 273 4450
go.ufl.edu/gwell

Graduate Professional Development

129 Grinter Hall (1523 Union Road)
352 294 0488
go.ufl.edu/ogpd

Graduate Student Council

3000 Reitz Union (3102 Reitz Union Drive)
ufgscsecretary@gmail.com
go.ufl.edu/gsc

Graduate Student Success

123 Grinter Hall (1523 Union Road)
352 392 6444
go.ufl.edu/gssc

International Center

170 The Hub (1765 Stadium Road)
352 392 5323
go.ufl.edu/ufic

Office of Biomedical Research Career Development

CG72 Communicore Ground Floor
352 294 8335
go.ufl.edu/graddev

Office of the Ombuds

31 Tigert Hall (300 SW 13th Street)
352 392 1308
go.ufl.edu/ombuds

Research Integrity at UF Office of Research

460 Grinter Hall (1523 Union Road)
352 273 3052
go.ufl.edu/integrity

Student Engagement

Level 2 Reitz Union (686 Museum Road)
352 392 1671
go.ufl.edu/involve

Thesis, Dissertation, and Publication

134 Grinter Hall (1523 Union Road)
352 392 1282
go.ufl.edu/tdp

U Matter We Care

202 Peabody Hall (1500 Union Road)
352 294 CARE (2273)
go.ufl.edu/umwc

UF Libraries

352 281 6309
Multiple locations across campus
Online map: go.ufl.edu/libraries

UF Training and Organizational Development

1603 UF East Campus (2140 NE Waldo Road)
352 392 4626
go.ufl.edu/tod

Writing Studio

2215 Turlington Hall (330 Newell Drive)
352 846 1138
go.ufl.edu/write

