

Graduate Student Expectations

I provide the following expectations for graduate students working under my supervision and on research projects and activities. Any time there are questions or an interest in further information or clarification, feel free to contact me right away.

1. Be prepared for a high level of commitment to coursework and research. This level of commitment means that it is unlikely that students can make any other major time commitments during the program.
2. The usual Research Assistantship of 50% time requires an average of 20 hours per week. RAs of lesser time are available at the discretion of the faculty supervisor. Highly successful students routinely exceed the required number of hours.
3. Collaboration on projects with other students, staff, and faculty is essential to success in the program and on research projects. Everyone works as part of a team.
4. Strive to promote a strongly positive and supportive working environment for all and at all times, and to be an exemplar for others to do the same.
5. Regularly discuss and keep faculty updated on progress in the program. Expect also that faculty will check in regularly as well. Typically, this is at least weekly.
6. Students are expected to attend all lab meetings and keep update on all projects in the lab even though you may not be working on these directly. Sign up for research lab or directed study through CPSY 8994 or CPSY 4994 as appropriate.
7. Graduate students are expected to work on their studies during the summer. Summer research on projects is necessary if students are to finish on time and at a high level of distinction.
8. Identify early on, and review this throughout the program, your career goals and objectives. Ask yourself what type of position you see yourself in 1, 3, and 5 years after the program.
9. Expect timely review of and feedback on research and work products, usually within 30 days.
10. Doctoral students should complete their programs within 5 years, and 6 years for those in clinical.
11. Graduate students are expected to have a regular presence on projects with other students and staff.
12. Be aware of grant programs within and outside the University, and identify those that are a good fit with your research interests and professional development.
13. It is expected that students will take advanced courses in methods, statistics, and data analysis and have a strong working knowledge with most or all of the following programs: SPSS, STATA, R, and LISREL.
14. Although there are no specific standards for the number of papers, publications, and conferences--this will vary by area and focus—strive for a high level of productivity and satisfaction about progress in the program. A specific plan can be developed if you believe that would be beneficial.
15. Be familiar with and take full advantage of resources in the University to advance your professional development and day-to-day responsibilities: These are two good guides:
--Keys to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.: <http://gradadvising.umn.edu/success.html>
--Resources for RAs & Supervisors – <http://wbt.umn.edu/pdf/RAs%20and%20Research%20Faculty.pdf>