Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students

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Participants will…

• Discuss what is professional development

• Describe why professional skills development is important

• Discuss resources and services supporting professional skills development
Small Group Discussion

In your department, what are the two professional skills that graduate students seek most to develop?

Where do your students go to receive support in developing these professional skills?
What is Professional Development (PD)?

- Training outside traditional, discipline-based graduate coursework.
- Helps bridge the gap between graduate education and the workforce.
What is PD?

Goals of participating in PD:

• Students learn skills that are transferable.

• Students gain greater awareness of different career paths (thus, increasing confidence and independence).
Why is PD important?

Today’s Job Market

1. The tight job market in higher education is widespread.

2. Job mobility (multiple careers) is the new normal.


Measures for Success

- Students need information about alternative employment options.

- Students need to prepare for a larger array of employment opportunities.

- These activities will set our students apart from the average graduate student.
Why is PD important?

Figure 2

From
Why is PD Important?

Definite commitments for academic employment in the United States, by field of study: 1994–2014

Percent

100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10


NOTE: Percentages are based on those with both definite commitments for employment in the coming year (including those missing employer type) and plans to stay in the United States.

Why is PD Important?

Median basic salary of doctorate recipients with definite commitments in the United States, by position type and field of study: 2014

Dollar (thousands)

- Life sciences
- Physical sciences
- Social sciences
- Engineering
- Education
- Humanities
- Other non-S&E fields

Advising Students

4 Questions to Ask Your Students:

• What are YOUR career goals? (Not your parents’ goals, PI’s goals, etc.)

• Does your primary career goal fit the realities of the job market in your discipline?

• What are your professional or transferable skills?

• What is your back-up plan?
## Skills Sought by Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill/Attribute</th>
<th>% Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work in a team</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills (written)</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving skills</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills (verbal)</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong work ethic</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Job Outlook 2016, National Association of Colleges and Employers
Skills Emphasized

- Communication and presentation
- Writing
- Professional networking
- Research development
- Job search
- Mentoring
- Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- Teaching

Source: Council of Graduate Schools, 2017
OGAPS Objective

To promote and expand opportunities for graduate students to engage in professional development activities that will prepare them for their future careers—whether in academia, industry, government, non-profit organizations or elsewhere.
OGAPS PD Portal

A search engine for students to identify PD opportunities across campus

*ogaps.tamu.edu/profdev-portal
Collaboration of 8 campus units to provide professional development opportunities for graduate students to better prepare them for professional life after graduate school.

G.R.A.D. Aggies Collaborators:
- Career Center
- CTE
- GSC
- ISS
- OGAPS
- SCS
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- University Libraries
- UWC

G.R.A.D. Aggies Programs:
- Certificate program
- Workshops
- Seminars
- One-to-one consultations
- Online Resources
- For more information visit http://gradaggies.tamu.edu
GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Founded and staffed by PhDs, VPhD helps you become versatile: ready, willing, and able to steer your career in many directions!

Serving Humanities, Social Science, and STEM fields

START HERE!

✔ Go to vphd.info/TAMU_go
✔ Enter your NetId and password
✔ Create a VPhD account
✔ Sign in!
Career Center (HireAggies.com)

• Goal - To ensure all Aggies find professional success and fulfillment by:
  – Encouraging students to explore ALL career options.
  – Helping students determine which path is the best fit for their interests and skills & develop a plan of action.
  – Assisting students in each step of the job search and application process.
  – Reaffirming students’ autonomy & self-efficacy during this stressful phase in their lives.

• Services & Programs: AggiExternship, Workshops; Walk-in hours; 1:1 advising; Company info sessions

• Contact: Katie Stober  kstober@tamu.edu
Professional Development in Teaching Sources

1 - CTE
2 - CIRTL @TAMU (LCs)
3 - CIRTL.NET (online)
Required workshops (4)  Elective workshops (4)

- Faculty Mentor
- Classroom Observations (2)

- CV
- Teaching Statement
- Syllabus
Weekly drop-in interactive sessions

Monthly themes in teaching and learning

Speakers from network

Workshops:

- Creating Video Snip Modules for Active Teaching and Learning
- How to Breakthrough Student’s Misconceptions of Science

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QHfhfemPYA
University Writing Center

Programs and Services

- Dissertation Retreat
- Dissertation/Thesis Writing Groups
- Individual Consultation
Financial Resources

• Funding Opportunities (OGAPS):

• Funding for Research or Conference Travel:
  - OGAPS Research and Presentation Grant
  - Graduate Student Council Travel Award

• Scholarships & Financial Aid:
  - Money Wise Aggie
  - Workshops (online videos & face-to-face seminars)
  - Scholarships & Grants just for Graduate students!!
Other Resources

- **POWER Writing Support Services (College of EHD)**
  - [http://power.tamu.edu/](http://power.tamu.edu/)
  - Workshops, Credit Bearing Courses, Consultations

- **Student Counseling Services** [https://scs.tamu.edu/](https://scs.tamu.edu/)
  - Grad Student support groups
  - Career Interest testing
  - 1:1 counseling [http://scs.tamu.edu/personal](http://scs.tamu.edu/personal)
We Need Your Help!

Almost 40% of students said the best way to be notified of PD events was through their graduate advisor

- Join the Grad Advisor listserv
- Push events & resources to students
OGAPS PD contact:

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Assistant Provost, Professional Development
979-845-3631

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Questions?
Comments?