The ‘Other’ Education: Professional Development Beyond the Classroom

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Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
Career Preparation

- Fewer job opportunities available within academia; need to be versatile!
- Job mobility (multiple careers) is the new normal
- More people graduating with advanced degrees
Career Preparation

My Advice for You:

1. Learn skills that are transferable
   - “Soft skills”

2. Increase your awareness of different career paths
   - Have a Plan B!

HOW?
What is Professional Development?

- Training outside traditional, discipline-based graduate coursework.
- Helps bridge the gap between graduate education and the workforce.
Top five transferable skills (for all fields):

- Communication
- Knowledge of the field
- Planning/organization
- Ethics/integrity
- Teamwork
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### 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 Sought by Employers

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

Source: Council of Graduate Schools, 2017
Questions to Ask Yourself

• 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 is your back-up plan?

• What are your professional or transferable skills?
G.R.A.D. Aggies

• Collaboration of 7 offices to provide PD opportunities just for graduate students

• Workshops, One-on-one consultations, online resources

• Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Level Certificates
More info at:
grad-aggies.tamu.edu
3 Minute Thesis Competition
Level of Involvement:

1. Working Sessions
2. Preliminary Competition
3. Finals Competition
4. Regional Competition
Founded and staffed by PhDs, VPhD helps you become versatile: ready, willing, and able to steer your career in many directions!

START HERE!

- Go to vphd.info/TAMU_go
- Enter your NetId and password
- Create a VPhD account
- Sign in!
Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning

- [http://cirtl.tamu.edu/](http://cirtl.tamu.edu/)
- Courses/webinars for all disciplines
- Local activities: Academy for Future Faculty, Teaching as Research, workshops

GOAL: Preparing future faculty in high-impact, evidence-based teaching skills
Academy For Future Faculty

- Learn from core and elective workshops
- Prepare academic documents
- Development through classroom observations
- Personal mentoring from a faculty member
By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Apply principles of integrated course design in the development of a course within your discipline.
- Apply classroom management strategies.
- Develop a reflective and purposeful approach to teaching.
- Develop a teaching philosophy statement.
- Practice self-assessment and peer assessment of teaching.
- Develop and execute a teaching as-research plan.
Teaching-as-Research (TAR) Learning Community

• Use of research methods to develop and implement teaching practices

• Provides participants with a platform to design, implement, assess and report on innovative teaching methods in the classroom

• Level 1 Participation - $300 award

• Level 2 participation - $750 award

Cirtl.tamu.edu
For More Information, Contact:

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Instructional Consultant
sheedah@tamu.edu  845-0793

Center for Teaching Excellence
cte@tamu.edu  845-8392
Resources - Career Development

• Career Center
  – Internships, Co-ops, Externships
  – Career Fairs

• Mays Business School
  – Certificate in Entrepreneurial Leadership
  – Certificate in Business

• ALEC Department
  – Certificate in Leadership Education, Theory, and Practice
Resources – Academic Writing

- University Writing Center
  - Dissertation Retreat
  - Dissertation/Thesis Writing Groups

- POWER Writing Program
  - Workshops, Credit Bearing Courses, Consultations
Money Education Center

• Online videos & face-to-face resources

• Scholarships & grants just for graduate students!
Financial Resources

Travel to conduct research or present at conferences:

- OGAPS Research and Presentation Travel Award
- Graduate Student Council Travel Award
- Many professional societies offer travel awards

• Dissertation Fellowships
  - Year-long stipend with tuition for final year of PhD
# OGAPS Student Travel Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Level</th>
<th>Project Awarded For</th>
<th>Maximum Amount Awarded (award amounts may differ as to merit of activity)</th>
<th>After Travel Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>• Domestic Travel, Presentation, and Conference Attendance</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>• International Travel, Presentation, and Conference Attendance</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research Activities and Travel (Domestic/International)</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>Reflection Summary of experience with a 2 page minimum and other requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>• Domestic or International projects of high merit that involve High Impact Learning Opportunities, which includes, but not limited to proposals that involves participation in national conferences, engagement of TIER 1 institutions, and support of TAMU's diversity initiatives.</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS?

OGAPS Professional Development Team
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979-845-3631