

Graduate Student Responsibilities



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Guiding Standards for the Pursuit of Graduate Study and Research at Purdue University

Planning a Course of Study

- Pursuit of a graduate education requires successful completion of a program of coursework and research as defined by the chosen program.
- Plans of study should combine sufficient breadth and depth to provide a foundation for lifelong learning in the discipline of interest.
- Through dialogue with the major professor and advisory committee, graduate students should develop a clear understanding of expectations regarding commitment and effort to be devoted to their graduate program.

Conducting Research

- The goal of research and scholarship is the discovery of knowledge.
- Integrity in research is an essential part of Purdue University's intellectual and social structure, and adherence to its spirit and principles is required.
- These principles include commitment to truth, objectivity, fairness, honesty, and free inquiry.
- The thesis or dissertation is the primary document that summarizes the independent contributions of a graduate student at the completion of the graduate program of study and is to be written by the student, and no one else.

- Thesis Masters and/or Doctoral degrees are not granted based on time and effort expended, but on the achievement of a significant research contribution as evaluated by the faculty.
- Students should become familiar with University and departmental policies regarding the conduct of research, and rights in data and intellectual property developed in the course of thesis research, early in their graduate tenure.
- Critical is also, an understanding of the advisor's policies and procedures governing authorship and publication of research results.
- The ultimate objective of the graduate research experience is for the student to progress to the point of becoming an independent and self-reliant researcher, scholar and/or artist.

Student Responsibilities

- Graduate students have a significant personal responsibility for:
 - (i) determining the direction of their graduate studies
 - (ii) making frequent critical assessments of their own progress and achievement.
 - (iii) having a clear understanding of the requirements to complete their degree objectives and develop a plan to satisfy these requirements within the shortest reasonable timeline.

- Graduate students must not advocate, condone nor tolerate discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam veteran.
- Graduate students who receive financial support for their graduate program should understand the responsibilities associated with the support they receive and to carry out these responsibilities in a timely, conscientious and professional manner.
- Graduate students with assignments as teachers have special responsibilities to be prepared for their class/laboratory sessions, and to maintain professional and mentoring relationships with their students.
- Graduate student scholars must always:
 - (i) strive to recognize and acknowledge the scholarly contributions of others
 - (ii) record and report the results and conclusions of their research, scholarly, or artistic endeavors completely and accurately
 - (iii) preserve the integrity of the research record.
- Scholars, researchers, and artists have a special obligation to exemplify the best qualities and highest standards of personal and professional conduct.
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Purdue's Statement of Integrity

<http://www.purdue.edu/Purdue/Integrity/index.htm/>

Purdue's Responsible Conduct of Research

<http://www.gradschool.edu/rcr/>

Purdue's Policies and Procedures of Integrity in Research

http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/teach_res_out_reach/viii_3_1.html

*This brochure is adapted from The RCR Booklet, Graduate School, Purdue University
http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/rcr/workshop_files/ResponsibleConductofResearchBooklet191208.pdf

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