Getting the Most Out of Your Graduate Education

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Graduate student expectations of faculty

- Faculty are current in their discipline
- Have broad and deep knowledge of their area(s) of scholarship
- Are active in their professional organizations and societies
- Share an ‘insider’s knowledge’ with their students
- Make use of ‘adult learner’ strategies and can facilitate deep learning
- Are judicious in their critical appraisal of student work
- Give prompt and meaningful feedback that fosters professional development
What are faculty expectations of graduate students?

* Greater initiative and self-directed learning
* More professional behaviors (in and out of class)
  * Communication
  * Time management
  * Feedback
  * Responsibility
  * Collegiality/cooperation with peers and faculty
* Integrity and honest effort
* Build on previous learning & experience
What *really* makes graduate education work?

- Faculty mentorship... being mentored by a graduate faculty member makes the graduate program

- Faculty role(s) as mentors...
  - Motivator ... push/pull you to do your best
  - Constructive critic... provide you honest feedback that results in significant improvements
  - Experienced colleague... can offer experiential wisdom that is helpful
  - Friendly guide... can help you safely & effectively navigate a path
  - Supportive professional... for long-term relationship
Students as Mentors

* Cohort and part-time students, particularly
  * 2nd-yr students ‘adopt’ first years
* Mix of older students with professional experience
* Students who are further along in the program, ready to continue career or begin new careers at entry-level
* Students mentoring students grows a graduate culture within the degree program
  * Builds camaraderie, provides feedback/guidance
How do you find a mentor?

* Read faculty bios for your degree program
  * Graduate program website & Student Handbook
* Meet your program faculty at degree program orientations
* Talk with existing students further through the program
* Talk with your program director & faculty
* Talk with program alumni
Enriching Your Success and Professional Development

http://www.gvsu.edu/paces/register
GSA Picnic!

Join us and connect with your graduate community!

WHEN? Friday, September 11th 5:30 — 7:30pm

WHO? Grad students, their friends and families, grad student organizations, faculty, and Louie the Laker!

WHERE? John Ball Zoo Hilltop Pavillion!

RSVP via online invitation found on our website or Facebook!
gvsu.edu/GSA  facebook.com/GVGrads