



# What does it take to earn a Ph.D.?

(and first get accepted)

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**Why do you want to earn a Ph.D. degree?**

# Who is at the workshop?



A) WHO WOULD LIKE TO TEACH IN THE FUTURE & HAS HAD TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

B) WHO WOULD LIKE TO TEACH IN THE FUTURE & HAS NOT HAD TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

C) WHO DOESN'T THINK THEY ARE INTERESTED IN A UNIVERSITY POSITION AND WILL PROBABLY WORK FOR AN AGENCY, IN INDUSTRY OR A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION?

D) WHO IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THEIR CAREER PATH AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

# Workshop Goals



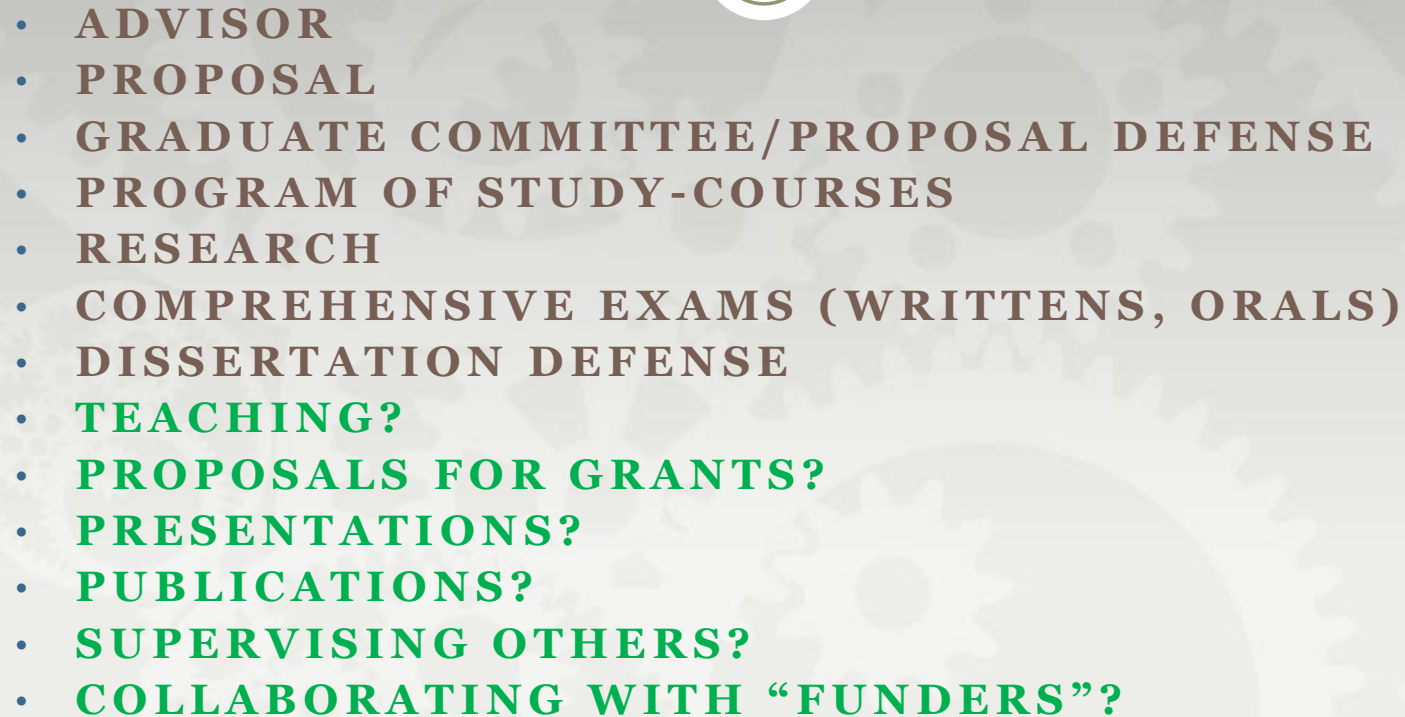
**RESEARCH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?**

**THE APPLICATION**

**INTERVIEWING FOR SUCCESS**

**DEVELOPING A NETWORK FOR LIFE &  
EARNING YOUR DOCTORAL DEGREE**

# Components of a Ph.D. Program

- 
- ADVISOR
  - PROPOSAL
  - GRADUATE COMMITTEE/PROPOSAL DEFENSE
  - PROGRAM OF STUDY-COURSES
  - RESEARCH
  - COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS (WRITTENS, ORALS)
  - DISSERTATION DEFENSE
  - TEACHING?
  - PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS?
  - PRESENTATIONS?
  - PUBLICATIONS?
  - SUPERVISING OTHERS?
  - COLLABORATING WITH “FUNDERS”?

# Research-What do you want?

## What is good for your friend(s), may not be good for you.



- \*PH.D. – IN WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAM?
- \*WHAT INSTITUTION HAS A GOOD PROGRAM?
- \*WHAT DO THEIR FACULTY DO?
- \*COMPLETION RATE?(E.G., 20-75% VARIES BY DISCIPLINE)
- \*TIME TO DEGREE (E.G., PH.D. 4-8 YEARS)
- \*WHERE DO EMPLOYERS WORK?

# **The Application**

## **FIRST...APPLYING to a Ph.D. program...**

### **Be ready to write/discuss:**



**WHAT ARE YOUR RESEARCH/PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS?**

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO EARN A PH.D.?**

**WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS-WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER EARNING A PH.D.?**

**WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE/“MY” GRADUATE PROGRAM, OUR GRADUATE STUDENT COMMUNITY?**

**(HINT: FOCUS ON YOUR “DEMONSTRATABLE EXPERIENCES”)**

**WHY SHOULD I ACCEPT YOU AS A DOCTORAL STUDENT IN OUR PROGRAM?**

# Activity #1



WHAT ARE YOUR DEMONSTRABLE  
EXPERIENCES/SKILLS?

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AS GRADUATE  
STUDENT, A TEACHING ASSISTANT?

BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES (KSA)!

# Interviewing for Success



\*WHAT TYPES OF INTERVIEWS HAVE YOU HAD?

\*WHAT WENT WELL, WHAT DIDN'T?

WHAT TO EXPECT?





# When do you talk about your interests and professional goals?

## Paper application

Cover letter

Resume or CV

Abstract

Writing samples

## First “Interview”

At a conference presentation

Over dinner at a professional meeting

On the phone scheduling an interview

On the web-Skype, Zoom

# Activity #2 – Interview Exercise



**\*PARTNER WITH THE PERSON SITTING NEXT TO YOU.**

**\*BRIEFLY SHARE 3 KSA'S YOU WILL HIGHLIGHT IN AN INTERVIEW.**

**\*FOR EACH KSA IDENTIFIED, RESPOND TO:**

**“TELL ME ABOUT A TIME WHEN YOU USED YOUR\_\_\_\_\_. WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME? WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE”?**

# Self Reflection



**\*WERE YOU ABLE TO PROVIDE CLEAR,  
CONCISE, SPECIFIC EXAMPLES?**

**\*WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST CHALLENGING?**

**\*WHAT WILL YOU ANSWER DIFFERENTLY  
DURING AN INTERVIEW?**

# Common Errors



- \*FAILURE TO RESEARCH THE ORGANIZATION /INSTITUTION, DESCRIBING YOUR GOALS**
- \*PROVIDING GENERAL ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**
- \*USING BUZZWORDS (DO YOU UNDERSTAND THEM?)**
- \*THINKING OUT LOUD**
- \*LANGUAGE- “I JUST”, “I’M SORRY”, “I THINK, UM, UH, LIKE”**
- \*AVOID THESE COMMON ERRORS BY PREPARING IN ADVANCE**

# Developing a Network for Life & Earning Your Ph.D. Degree



- \*LEARNING TO LEARN
- \*INDEPENDENCE AND COLLABORATION
- \*COMMUNICATION AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS
- \*PROFESSIONALISM- LOCALLY AND BEYOND
- \*WORK ETHIC AND INTEGRITY
- \*HEALTH AND WELLNESS