

GRADUATE STUDENT BLUEPRINT:

THE WHAT, WHEN, AND WHERE OF GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

GETTING STARTED

In the early stages of your graduate program, you will focus on adjusting to your new schedule and familiarizing yourself with graduate resources. Your advisor will help you sequence your courses so that you have a clear plan to guide your graduate studies. Network with other students and embrace graduate life by attending events sponsored by the Graduate Student Association and more!

Resources:

- Virtual Graduate Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Guidebook
- The Graduate School Website
- Faculty and Program Directors
- Graduate Student Association events and program-specific graduate student organizations

Action Items:

- Attend New Graduate Student Orientation
- Meet with your advisor to review program requirements and chart course path
- Attend Graduate Student Association events to connect with other graduate students from every discipline

EARLY-MIDDLE

These action items generally occupy the first 33-66% of your graduate program, or after your first semester has passed. At this point, you'll want to focus on choosing an internship or co-op placement, building your professional skill set, exploring funding opportunities for research, and finding a faculty mentor.

Action Items:

- Attend PACES workshops for academic, professional development
- Meet with advisor to discuss internship requirements
- Complete internship
- Research funding, research and conference opportunities
- Look for leadership opportunities in student organizations

Resources:

- Faculty and Program Directors
- PACES workshops and online resources
- Graduate Presidential Research Grant Program
- Library Research Resources
- Office of Fellowships
- Writing Center

MIDDLE-LATE

These action items generally occupy the last third of your program. During this time, you will focus on gaining more professional experience and connections within your field. You may focus on publishing articles or research, or continue doing in-field internships to grow your skillset.

Action Items:

- Complete internships
- Publish articles and research
- Finalize resume, portfolio and cover letter
- Meet with Career Center
- Attend workshops and conferences to network with professionals in the field
- Register for capstone course/experience.

Resources:

- Academic Conference Fund
- Faculty and Program Directors
- PACES workshops and online resources
- GVSU Career Center
- Internship or Co-op Director

READY TO GRADUATE

Now that you have your academic training, it is time to focus on what comes next. You'll want to meet frequently with your mentors and academic advisors to discuss career options and the job search process.

Action Items:

- Submit application to graduate
- Create a student loan repayment schedule
- Complete final thesis or research presentations
- Discuss career opportunities with advisors and mentors
- Attend networking events on and off campus
- Attend graduation ceremony

Resources:

- Faculty and Program Directors
- GVSU Career Services
- Alumni Association
- Financial Aid Office