

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

This roadmap is designed to help you navigate your path toward graduation and a successful career.

EARLY STAGE

M.S. – first semester
Ph.D. – first year

MID STAGE

M.S. – middle year
Ph.D. – middle 1-3 years

LATE STAGE

M.S. – final semester
Ph.D. – final 1-2 years

CAREER

- Create Individual Development Plan (IDP) & discuss with mentor(s) regularly
- Build communication skills
- Start exploring your career
- Activate CareerBuzz job board account
- Acquire professional attire

- Identify career of interest
- Keep CV/resume up to date
- Apply for grad co-ops/internships
- Enhance professional skills
- Build collaboration skills
- Engage in leadership & service

- Prepare job application materials
- Practice interviewing, including job talk
- Strengthen network & request references
- Learn about job offer negotiation
- International scholars — apply for OPT (if necessary)

RESEARCH

- Discuss mutual expectations with advisor
- Complete Responsible Conduct of Research training
- Complete safety training (as required)
- Explore & apply for available grants/fellowships/awards

- Learn data management & visualization
- Enhance collaboration skills
- Disseminate & present research
- Complete grant writing training
- Apply for late stage grants/fellowships/awards

- Mentor junior researchers/other grad students
- Explore entrepreneurship opportunities
- Write thesis/dissertation
- Practice research talk

TEACHING

- Explore Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) programs and resources
- Attend TA orientation/training (if applicable)
- Attend cultural & inclusivity programs

- Begin working toward Tech to Teaching certificate
- Participate in Preparing Future Faculty programs
- Complete a mentored teaching experience

- Complete requirements for Tech to Teaching certificate
- Write teaching & research statements for academic jobs
- Prepare teaching demonstration for academic jobs

WELLNESS

- Complete new student checklist
- Attend orientation programs
- Participate in Grad Groups
- Complete sexual assault awareness training
- Develop a personal financial plan

- Make use of health & wellness support services
- Take advantage of resources for partner/family
- Participate in campus organizations & activities
- Be aware of resources for handling difficult conversations & conflicts

- Seek peer & family support (as needed)
- Participate in the Counseling Center's group sessions (as needed)
- Celebrate commencement
- Make use of Georgia Tech Alumni Association benefits & services