Elements for Success in Graduate Studies

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Welcome to the

United States of America

and to

Arizona State University
Your journey to success has begun…
Your journey to success has begun...

How to maintain path to success and how to attain success?
Your journey to success has begun...

Success (Definition - Merriam-Webster Dictionary): outcome, result; one that succeeds

To Succeed (Definition - Merriam-Webster Dictionary): to attain a desired object or end - students who succeed in college
Your journey to success has begun...

How to maintain path to success and how to attain success?

You are in good hands: ASU has resources to help you succeed!
Your journey to success has begun...

How to maintain path to success and how to attain success?

You are in good hands: ASU has resources to help you succeed!

But you need to do your part to effectively make use of these resources and achieve your aims.
Some elements of success adopted from this book and reinterpreted for graduate school.
To be successful in Graduate School

Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind
To be successful in Graduate School

Be Proactive:
Take responsibility, work hard and control your own journey.

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Put First Things First: prioritization and organization are key.

Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind
Put First Things First...

We are flooded by data of all sorts: emails, posts, messages, media,...
“Consumer internet video traffic will be 80 percent of all consumer Internet traffic in 2019.”

Source:
“It would take an individual over 5 million years to watch the amount of video that will cross global IP networks each month in 2019”

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Be Proactive: Take responsibility, work hard and control your own journey.

Put First Things First: prioritization and organization are key.

Seek First to Understand: understand requirements, expectations, what is allowed, what is taught, what skills to be acquired; what needs to be solved; figure out what you do not understand; ask questions and seek help from mentors and advisors and, when allowed, from peers.

Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind

International Orientation 2018
Seek First to Understand

Understand requirements and expectations

- Seek help from advising staff and program chair for degree requirements and expectations (e.g., GPA $\geq 3.0$; credits that count for degree)
- Seek help from instructors for course requirements and expectations
- Consult documents and online resources (graduate college, your school, course material)
Seek First to Understand

Understand what is allowed

- Ask instructor and advisor if something is allowed or not allowed; do not assume that something is allowed.
- Academic integrity should be taken very seriously: familiarize yourself with University Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity and abide by it
  
  https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity
Seek First to Understand

Understand what is taught and what skills to be acquired

- Seek help from instructors for understanding course material and skills to be acquired
- Consult faculty working in area of interest for desired skills
- Attend career fairs and review internship/job postings to know about skills desired by employers
Seek First to Understand

Understand what needs to be solved

- Take time to understand what is being asked in an assignment or test
- Take time to understand the problem

“If I had an hour to solve a problem I’d spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions.” *Albert Einstein*
Seek First to Understand

Understand what needs to be solved

- Take time to understand what is being asked in an assignment or test
- Take time to understand the problem
- Ask questions and do not take things for granted

“The mere formulation of a problem is far more often essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and marks real advances in science.” Albert Einstein
Seek First to Understand

Understand what you do not understand

- Work homework by yourself to discover difficulties and where you struggle before seeking help.
- Do not consult previous solutions or work with other peers on solving individual (non-group) assignments.
- Seek help from instructor or from peers if allowed by instructor only after you attempted the assignments by yourself.
- Pay attention during class lectures, note anything that is unclear, and ask questions.
Seek First to Understand

Ask questions and seek help from mentors and advisors and, when allowed, from peers

- Surround yourself with successful mentors
- "The people we choose to surround ourselves with impacts the way we think, act and feel on a day-to-day basis."
  https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/276050

“If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” Sir Isaac Newton
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Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind

Synergize:
creative cooperation; networking; diversity and differences are effective drivers
Introduce yourself to a person near you tell them your name, country and something interesting about you.

Credit: This slide is adopted from Spring 2016 Graduate College International Orientation Presentation
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)

Network with peer graduate students, attend events and get involved

- GPSA Contact
- Phone: (480) 727-9870
- Email: gpsa@asu.edu
- http://gpsa.asu.edu/
- Spring Welcome Event – ASU Tempe
- When: January 12th 2018, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Where: Student Services Lawn
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Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind

Synergize: creative cooperation; networking; diversity and differences are effective drivers

Sharpen the Saw: Take time to take care of yourself; balance between mind and body.

ASU
International Orientation 2018
Pillars for Educational Success

**Learning to know**
Focus on the pleasure that can be derived from understanding, knowledge and discovery.

**Learning to do**
Focus on educational skill sets to do the types of work needed in the future.

**Learning to live together**
Learn to work together to appreciate human diversity and interdependence of all people.

**Learning to be**
Remember education is a complete mind and body experience.

*source: UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)*
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Synergize:
Creative cooperation; networking; diversity and differences are effective drivers.

Begin with the End in Mind and Keep the End in Mind

Be persistent, do not quit
Discover and build your strengths
Communicate clearly
Be curious, and a critical thinker

Sharpen the Saw:
Take time to take care of yourself; balance between mind and body.
Advice from International Graduate Students at ASU: **Alireza** from Iran

“Focus on [your] goals...living far away from [your] country and family is already hard enough, but we all have goals and that's why we are all here. Sometimes different culture and atmosphere may distract us and cause us to forget our goal.”

“International students should learn to take care of themselves while they are here... some of them don’t eat well or go to doctors when they have pain. But it is very important to be healthy, otherwise they cannot make progress.”

“Try to be involved with graduate students organizations and events.”
“Don't be shy to communicate with your classmates and professors. Actually, practice makes perfect... people will understand you instead of making fun of you.”

“Understand the difficulty level and prerequisites before choosing the course. You can get the information from the website, graduate advisors and people who took the class.”

“Be a team-player. Participate in the group discussions and don't be afraid to offer your opinion.”
Advice from International Graduate Students at ASU: Sai from India

“Starting early on the assignments/projects. This is one thing which helped me a lot. Some of my friends scored less just because of starting late.”

“Individual work prior to group work. While working individually on the assignments, I referred to a lot of content which always helped me in tackling slightly different problems and also made me understand the potential areas where I could go wrong.”

“Utilizing the office hours helped me in understanding those complex topics which sometimes passed over my head during the lecture.”
“Forming study groups with people from different nationalities. This helped me a lot in understanding the ideologies and the culture of people from different nationalities. It served as a very good practice for me in expanding my knowledge.”

“Campus jobs helped me in understanding a lot of do's and don’t's in a professional environment. Also, it helped me in coping up with the living expenses, improved my English speaking skills and helped me feel close to the American community.”
“Finally, as the saying goes in Harry Potter, "Help will always be given at Hogwarts for those who ask for it." It's the same thing with ASU too. My graduate and academic advisers helped me a lot of times in handling difficult situations. Once I started asking for help, a lot of my problems had a solution before getting advanced.”