

Strategies for Success and Ethical Research

Prof. R. A. Borrelli

@TheDoctorRAB



University of Idaho · Idaho Falls Center for Higher Education
Department of Nuclear Engineering and Industrial Management

Vandal Advantage Graduate Student Orientation



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Strategies for success in graduate school

- (1) Learn to write
- (2) Write
- (3) Write more
- (4) Write even more
- (5) Still write more
- (6) Write all of the things

And do not use Excel graphs

You can have the best idea in the world, but if you can't write it down, you can't communicate it effectively and share your work

How can you build writing and research skills?

Understand research is a process

A good first step is reading lots of papers and putting together a literature review

This is going to be needed for anything - paper, thesis, proposal

A follow up to that is developing a white paper

Many students can combine these into a journal paper

Critical review identifying gaps in the research field

Talk to faculty to learn what they are doing - next steps in the research process

Ask to contribute to proposals - further steps in the research process

Recognize that graduate school is your job

You are expected to make a contribution to the literature

This means *Published Work*

Take advantage of the unique opportunities to be here in Idaho Falls

Network with INL as much as you can and make yourself known to them

This leads to internships and more research

Take initiative to direct your own research

Make regular time to search for fellowships and scholarships

Check out the Fellowships on the University web site

Ethics in research is communicating fairly

There are official university and agency policies

Regular meetings are ok to communicate your work with the research group

'Stand up meetings' 5 - 10 minutes to bounce off ideas and provide updates

(Though there may be instances where more time is needed)

Be magnanimous in giving or sharing credit

Remember to credit or cite any sources or people that have assisted you

Or seminal works in the field

This could be as simple as an acknowledgment at the end of your paper

Citations are very important because reviewers will look at that first

You will have a good citation list from your literature review though

You don't want to get a bad name for not including sources/people

Be careful with authorship; lean towards credit

First author - Usually you because you're doing a ton of work

Last author - Me. Put me on all the papers

Last author is major professor/PI who wrote and is directing the project

Middle? - Your choice

Did they make a meaningful contribution to the paper?

Could be another professor or a student - We've done this

Just ask

Just write