**Make some changes**

**How does your degree program typically work? What are the milestones and the typical time frame for achieving them?**

Mark:

My degree program, an M.S., typically lasts two years. There are three major milestones during that time:

1. Thesis proposal (2nd or 3rd semester)

2. Course work completion (3rd semester)

3. Thesis defense (4th semester)

I'm currently in my 3rd semester.

Derek:

I’m in my 6th year of the PhD program. I am wrapping up my dissertation right now and will defend it by the end of Sept. That, I guess is *the* milestone, other than the job-hunting that I’m also doing throughout the year.

**What are your expectations for this project in relation to where you are in your program?**

Mark: I’m trying to position this paper as a nice compliment to my thesis. This work won't be necessary for my graduation. Instead it will hopefully add to my thesis in some way and increase the breadth of research available to me after graduation. My thesis proposal is building an autonomous assistive agent using IRL. Very similar but without any attention to ethical questions.

Derek: This project is not necessary for me either, since I’m defending my dissertation on a different topic. But I am gradually transitioning into working on philosophy of action. And I hope that this project can help me narrow down my research focus on some particular aspects of action.

**How does your relationship with your advisor work?**

Mark: My advisor is happy with staying hands off with my research. Even so, being as early as I am with research, I do seek his input a lot. I have found it to be very helpful.

Derek: My advisor for this project is pretty hands off too, partly because he is on leave this semester. But he is happy to meet and discuss any issue that arises.

**What is your working style? What do I need to know about your typical schedule?**

Mark: I’m very busy with courses at the moment so my availability for this project is inconsistent at best. It really depends on the amount of homework I have due in my courses from week to week. I am trying to get a little done every week regardless, and I've liked our weekly meetings. I'm not a huge morning person and typically work from around 10:00 - 7:00 M-F and then 11:00-3:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

Derek: As a philosopher, my main kind of work is reading and sorting out arguments. I do that daily.

**How will we resolve our disagreements?**

Mark: So far we've been able to talk through them or adjust the research. Our practice of adjusting the research to fit both our fields makes me a little nervous that we are going to get something watered down or less impactful in the end. Still, I'm not sure how else to work through some of these issues and it has seemed ok so far.

Derek: I feel a little bit the same. We have been able to talk things through and find middle ground. Though as Mark remarked as well, it seems that for the most part it is about compromising each of our discipline’s standard a bit. I have been worrying that what we will end up getting may not be as cutting edge from Mark’s discipline’s perspective. I have a similar worry about the philosophy side as well because many of the ethically significant conceptual distinctions about people may not be straightforwardly manifest from a behavioral perspective. It does seem to require relaxing some conceptual demand for the sake of practicality. But then, I agree with Mark, that seems to be the only way to go.

**What are our professional responsibilities to one another, and how will we maintain them?**

Show up at our agreed meetings

Make progress on the project

Setting short term goals to keep ourselves on track

**What are our goals for the completion of this work?**

Mark: I would like...

... a working implementation of our algorithms

... two papers? (One philosophy oriented, one machine learning oriented)

Derek: On top of the two goals Mark mentioned, I also hope to get two extra philosophy papers about free will as by-product of this projects (one is already done).

**How will we share credit for this work?**

Mark: On the ML paper I thought I could be first author and Derek second while on the philosophy paper we reverse that order?

Derek: That seems fair.