

Advising philosophy

Graduate school is a fun time, and a challenging time. You have nearly absolute freedom to study and pursue your interests, which is mostly great, but comes with some hazards. Almost everyone I know who did a PhD (across many disciplines) experienced a slump somewhere between years 2–4. You might find yourself asking “what the heck am I doing here?” or “this can’t possibly be right, am I doing well or poorly?” or “why isn’t my adviser helping me to find my way?!”

The angst is partially due to advising philosophy, poor communication, and personality match between advisor and advisee. Some of the big questions, like what are you doing here, you have to answer for yourself, and that can be challenging, but I hope to minimize stress by clearly setting expectations.

Timeline of a PhD (approximately).

Year:	1	2	3	4	5
Studies					
Core course work					
Reading research papers					
Attending research seminars					
Presenting in student seminars					
Attending conferences					
Research					
Identifying areas of interest					
Joint projects with advisor					
Presenting original work in research seminars					
Finding and executing thesis project					
Writing thesis					
Other					
Planning for career after grad school					

My responsibilities.

- To support you to help you become an independent researcher. I will provide advice on choosing a research project, identifying interesting papers to read, and writing.
- To actively collaborate a small joint project with you around your third year (if needed).
- To provide constructive feedback on your work, such as publishable manuscripts and professional presentations.
- To set ambitious but achievable goals with you.
- To support your professional development. I will suggest and help to fund, when possible, your travel to conferences and workshops, offer advice on career plans after grad school, and try to help you realize your goals, be they in academia or industry.

My expectations of You.

- Hold yourself to a high standard of research and practice (i.e., work hard).
- Provide weekly progress updates covering the following questions:
 - What did you work on / accomplish?
 - What went well / what challenges arose?
 - What questions do you have?
- Give talks in the student learning seminar.
- Take initiative in studying your topics of interest and identifying potential research problems.
- To behave honestly and, in particular, to not plagiarize or engage in any type of academic dishonesty.