

Fall 2010

ALS 5934 Graduate Professional Development

**Compiled Student Comments for Discussion
Set #1**

UF Website

- Are the sources of information consolidated somewhere in the university website for other students to access?

Teaching & Research Assistantships

- Upon accessing the Teaching Assistantship Training website, it appears that the orientation has already taken place. Is there a video-taped version of the Teaching Assistant Orientation?
- There is mention in the Teaching Handbook of contacting senior TA's. How does one identify such people? (I have not finished reading the entire manual yet, so if this is indicated somewhere inside, please accept my apologies.)
- If something unexpected but reasonable happened to a graduate student on an assistantship appointment and the funds are gone, what can she or he do to bring them back?
- We covered information regarding teaching assistance, but is there any information regarding "how to become effective research assistants"?

Major Advisor and Surviving Graduate School

- Is the advisor professor responsible to communicate with us as to where we can get info related with start a process in graduate school or is it our responsibilities to find that information
- What interactions should we have with our major professor and other faculty members?
- Where do graduate students fit within an academic department?
- I am living in a research center and I need some advice for my research work which people here do not know much about. How can I find an instructor from the department or maybe other departments and discuss this with them easily. Web pages outlining a professor's research area are often not specific or updated frequently.
- Are any of the books shown at the end of the talk any good? I'd like to hear short reviews of them.
- Do you feel that being a member of Graduate Assistants United is a valuable organization to pay 1% of my stipend?

- In terms of strengthening my weak points, how do I accomplish this while at UF, even if the subject matter is not relevant to my degree?
- Compare and contrast jobs in the scientific, academic, and professional (consulting type) fields with reference to important resume building activities a student should take part in to make themselves marketable.
- Can you provide a specific, yet fictional, example of a problem that would require the Ombudsman?

Travel and Research Grants

- While discussing about available grants, you did mention about GSC travel grant. But I think, mentioning CALS grant page (<http://cals.ufl.edu/graduate/awards.shtml>) will enrich this content.
- How can I be a principal investigator on a project?

Graduate Degree Options

- What does it mean for a thesis to have “validity”?
- Can you explain more about the difference between a non-thesis and thesis option?
- One of my concerns relates to decision making in regards to a thesis or a non thesis master’s. Which are the common differences in time and job marketability, the approximate time invested before graduation?
- Is it true that a master’s thesis is better or more admired in academia? From what I can tell they both involve a research project, but what is the difference?
- What is *creative* when it comes to the dissertation? Is it doing what others haven’t done before?
- If doing a thesis Master’s how does a student does choose an appropriate research topic?

International Students

- Many graduate students come from different countries, what are their advantages and disadvantages in doing research, solving conflicts and social life?

Satellite Campus Experiences

- At the satellite campuses, how can we put together more events that will allow for more interaction with fellow students and faculty?
- Finding resources at satellite campuses.