What Can I Expect in Graduate School?

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Coursework and Time Management: First and Second Years

- Core Curriculum
- Specialized Courses
- Grades are not so important (as long as one’s work is satisfactory)
- Research approximately 60% time
- Class approximately 30% time
- Draft an Individual Development Plan
- Join the Society of Toxicology
Selecting a Mentor

• Match of interests and personalities
• Available funding
• Projects: internal and external
• Lab environment
• Student track record
• Listen to everyone but be careful about taking opinions as truths

Pick your research advisor wisely. Don’t be afraid to ask for references from previous students.
A Mentor Should...

• Encourage you, help you to learn from mistakes
• Offer opportunities for collaboration, joint presentations, and departmental talks
• Help you to learn about writing and submitting manuscripts for publication
• Be able to provide support and training in your area
• Model a successful academic career and training in your area
• Demonstrate personal integrity
• Provide opportunities for you to develop independence
Qualifiers Along the Way

- Written qualifiers serve to screen doctoral candidates and guide course selection
- Oral exam
- Thesis/dissertation proposal
- Written thesis or dissertation
  - In many cases, published papers may be components
- Thesis/dissertation Defense
Coursework and Time Management: Third, Fourth, and Fifth Years

- Schedules are no longer defined by classes or even the school calendar
- Research work year-round
- Prepare manuscripts
- Apply for awards and grants
- Attend scientific meetings
- If teaching is in your career path, get teaching experience
- Prepare to pursue a postdoc or apply for employment
Best Wishes for Your Success!

www.toxicology.org