Additional Graduate Student Resources

Online Dissertation Resources for Students

This online article is an excellent resource for students wondering how to get started on their dissertations. Dr. Davis addresses key issues, from choosing the right topic and selecting research strategies to working effectively with advisors and giving seminar presentations. The article also encourages Ph.D. students working on their dissertations to decrease their course loads and teaching assignments whenever financially feasible.

Graduate Student Survival Guides

In this easy-to-read resource, Dr. Jain cautions students not to undertake the dissertation process without appropriate guidance. She coaches students to carefully select their topic, dissertation committee, and research materials; to establish a timeline; to carefully structure writing periods; to establish a peer support group; to seek regular feedback from their advisor, and to stay positive, among other helpful tips. Dr. Jain presents her ideas in clear, bulleted lists, making them user friendly for doctoral students.

General Resources
*Strengthen Your Graduate Program Through Mentorship.* Division of Research and Graduate Studies, University of Maryland.

This valuable guide was designed for graduate students, faculty, and post-doctoral fellows alike. It explains the various roles of mentors, the benefits of solid mentoring relationships, and the basics of successful dissertation completion. The guide also includes interviews with current UMCP doctoral students and faculty, as well as a comprehensive list of campus resources and contact information.


Compiled specifically for University of Maryland graduate students, this resource guide contains an overview of undergraduate instruction at the University, syllabus construction strategies, guidelines for writing letters of recommendation, assessment of learning techniques, and information for international graduate teaching assistants, as well as additional other important information. The guide also offers tips for selecting a mentor, time management, adhering to the University’s Policies on Professional Behavior, and leading discussion in the classroom.


This excellent booklet describes academic and institutional contexts of Ph.D. programs in the United States and Canada, and it identifies standards of quality and policies that are most likely to promote successful programs. For graduate administrators and faculty, the booklet addresses faculty responsibilities, recruitment and retention of doctoral students, recommended administrative services and physical facilities, and guidelines for establishing new Ph.D. programs. The final section is designed to give prospective and current Ph.D. students a clear picture of the purposes of the Ph.D., the tasks that need to be completed, the level of performance to be achieved, and suggestions for completing and publishing the dissertation.