Advisor expectations
or
what do I look for in a good graduate student

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Hard work and dedication

- Laziness erodes your soul
- Your laziness erodes others’ souls
- Laziness breeds laziness
Academic honesty and courage

• don’t be afraid to speak your mind, but don’t “badmouth” something just because it is hard.

• defend your ideas/conclusions even if they do not conform with your advisor’s thoughts/intuition/vision.

• be “smart stubborn” (persistent) and avoid being just stubborn

• nobody has monopoly on truth, including you!
Time and task management

• Don’t waste time: yours and your advisor’s
  • Be well prepared for your weekly meeting, and prepare your advisor for a productive meeting
  • Thrive to have a “complete result” (regardless how small) for each week (includes statement of problem investigated, approach used, results obtained and conclusions reached)
  • Manage your meeting time effectively to reach the goals (each meeting should have the goals you’d like to achieve)

• Develop schedules (weekly/ semester/ year/ graduate studies) and use them to:
  • Control panic of managing multiple tasks and demands
  • Keep yourself honest on the progress towards near-term, mid-term, and long-term goals
Independence and creativity

• Take ownership of your work
• Drive the project, pose questions and chart the direction of inquiry
• Direct your advisor to the “right” path
• Confront common wisdoms, and attack challenges by using “out-of-envelope” thinking
• Develop a “can do” reputation
Delivery on obligations

• Always remember that someone pays money to support your graduate studies and your work.

• Always be on top with delivering on your obligations to the sponsors (reports, papers, presentations...)

• Help your advisor manage interactions with a sponsor.

• Be dependable, trustworthy, and professional.
Mentorship and camaraderie

• Mentor junior graduate students
• Dedicate time to help other group members
• Be generous: spend some of your vast intellectual resources on thinking about other’s research problems
• Volunteer to do some group chores
• Hard work and dedication
• Academic honesty and courage
• Time and task management
• Independence and creativity
• Delivery on obligations
• Mentorship and camaraderie
• Be a good human being!
Lastly, vacation/holiday policy