



Graduate Student Professional Development

Information for Faculty

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development is committed to graduate students' academic and professional success. Our mission is to coordinate, develop, and promote learning opportunities to foster the academic, professional, and life skills of graduate students. Our unit coordinates skill-building opportunities in a variety of areas and partners with units across campus to offer over 400 events each year (grad.wisc.edu/uw-events).

Professional success encompasses many paths, whether graduate students pursue careers as faculty members or opportunities in the private sector or public service. Each semester we host a series on career development, Beyond the Tenure Track, addressing topics like transferable skills, interview preparation, and networking. We maintain a campus subscription to Aurora by Beyond the Professoriate, an online resource that empowers PhD students to make informed decisions about their careers.

We encourage graduate students to be proactive and intentional in planning their paths to success. Use of Individual Development Plans is recommended for all graduate students at UW-Madison. To support graduate students and their mentors in developing IDPs, we offer a collection of resources, face-to-face workshops, and planning tools at grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp.

Drawing from research, national reports, peer practices, and input from graduate students, faculty, and staff, the Office of Professional Development created a new model for graduate student professional development at UW-Madison. The resulting framework identifies universal competencies, skills, and attributes developed through graduate education.



The framework is the basis for DiscoverPD (my.grad.wisc.edu/DiscoverPD), an online tool that prompts students to assess their confidence in each area of the framework. It generates a custom report with recommendations for improvement. The opportunities in the DiscoverPD database are searchable by keyword, type, and time commitment. Paired with an Individual Development Plan, it provides students scaffolding on which to plan their time in graduate school, as well as a vocabulary to describe the skills gained through graduate study.

CONNECT WITH US

grad.wisc.edu/professional-development
Twitter: @UWMadGSEd
Facebook: @UWMadGradSchool

Eileen Callahan
Director of Professional Development
eileen.callahan@wisc.edu

Alissa Ewer
Assistant Dean for Professional
Development and Communications
alissa.ewer@wisc.edu

Amy Fruchtman
Assistant Director of Professional
Development
amy.fruchtman@wisc.edu