

## MY RECIPE FOR SUCCESS IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

### Goals (in order of priority)

- Publish  $\geq 2$  papers as first author. Middle-authoring additional papers is also helpful.
- Secure F30/F31 fellowship funding.
- Train a junior researcher in the lab (undergrad, high school, junior grad student).
- Attend and present research at 1 national meeting per year.
- Pursue opportunities towards career goals (internship, informational interviews, networking, etc).
- Establish relationships with other labs (collaborations, networking with faculty).
- Participate in service activities (graduate student council rep, dept. rep, committees, etc).

### Timeline

#### Year 1

- Winter Identify a thesis host lab.  
Design a 12-month focused research **Project #1** that has the potential to:  
(A) yield a small manuscript, finish a project that someone else in the lab had started, and/or complete a larger project ongoing in the lab, ideally to finish in 12 months.  
**and**  
(B) provide data in support of your not-yet-designed longer-term thesis project.  
The PI would design **Project #1** with you, likely based on an area of current funding.

- Spring  
Summer } Work hard and focus on **Project #1**.

#### Year 2

- Fall Work hard and focus on **Project #1**.  
Develop a concept for topic of **Qualifying Exam** proposal, ideally which will morph into the longer-term **Project #2** as the F30/F31 grant proposal. Base this **Project #2** topic/hypothesis on the data acquired thus far in **Project #1**. So the data from **Project #1** becomes preliminary data for a grant to support **Project #2**.  
Write **Qualifying Exam** proposal, submit proposal, pass oral exam.
- Winter Work hard and focus on **Project #1**.  
Attend a national meeting.
- Spring/  
Summer } Work hard on **Project #1**.  
Write manuscript on **Project #1**.  
Reshape **Qualifying Exam** proposal into F30/F31 application for April or August submission.

#### Year 3

- Fall Work hard on **Project #2**.
- Winter Work hard on **Project #2**. Anticipate having to revise/resubmit the F30/F31 application, to which you would add more data.  
Attend a national meeting, and present work from **Project #1**.

#### Years 4-5

- Work hard on **Project #2**. Write and submit a manuscript(s) on **Project #2** to peer-reviewed journal.  
Attend a national meeting and present your work once per year.  
If you have the bandwidth, take on a **Project #3**.