10 Totally Doable Ways to Enhance Your Career and Professional Development During the January Break

1. Not sure what you should be doing to manage your career while you are a PhD student or postdoc? Review the professional and career development information on the Graduate School Website as well as career related information on your college/school and program websites. Schedule an appointment to talk with a career staff member.

2. Update your resume, CV and LinkedIn account. Update your profile information in your Careers 4 Terps (C4T) account or Career4Engineers account and upload a current resume or CV. Set up search agents in C4T or C4E so you are emailed job postings. Check out LinkedIn checklists for advice about your profile.

3. Exploring your career options? Learn more about how PhDs can use informational interviews. Use Terrapins Connect and the UMD LinkedIn Group to begin conducting informational interviews.

4. Pursuing an academic career? Review the Teaching and Learning Transformation Center (TLTC) website to learn more about their programs and events. (15 minutes). Sign up for their e-newsletter and review their events calendar regularly. Explore CIRTL resources and programs (FREE).

5. Learn more about the benefits of writing a personalized Individual Development Plan. Examples of printable IDP forms and more information about how to implement and IDP are available from University of Wisconsin, University of California-Irvine, and
6. Are you an Arts, Humanities, or Social Science doctoral student? Create a free ImaginePhD account. Complete the interest, skills, and values assessments and explore at least 3 job families. Schedule an appointment through C4T to discuss your assessment results.

7. Once a week, review the events calendars of Graduate School, University Career Center & The Presidents Promise and Engineering Career Services to identify events that will increase your knowledge of career paths of interest, provide networking opportunities, or support your progress with your dissertation and obtaining funding. Register now and attend later!

8. Explore the websites of national and regional professional associations related to your discipline. Note conference and program submission dates in your calendar.

9. Connect or reconnect with colleagues through LinkedIn. New to LinkedIn, then brainstorm a list of contacts from past jobs, internships, conferences, academic programs. Include fellow graduate students and alumni from your program. Reach out to connect or reconnect with a short personal note.

10. Schedule appointments and time to follow up with your academic adviser, peers, other mentors, and career professionals about questions that have emerged related to your academic and professional development plans.

Upcoming Events

Invest In Your Future: A Graduate School Success Symposium

January 22, 2018

Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland

- Did you make some New Year's resolutions to work on your academic and professional skills? Need some help figuring out your next steps and to jump start your spring semester?
- Join the Graduate School for the second annual January Student Success Symposium--a day of networking and interactive, hands-on sessions to help you achieve your goals!
- All graduate students, especially doctoral students, and postdoctoral research associates are invited. This year's event will focus on communication and presentation skills, finding funding, and career management!
FREE, but you must reserve your space with a $15 deposit. Deposits will be returned after the event for all those who attend.

Register Now
Pay Deposit
More information

1st Annual Graduate Career Pathways Conference, Friday, April 20, 2018, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Events for Engineers (Click image to see full calendar and register)

Career & Professional Development Resources & Tools

teaching & learning transformation center
STEM PhDs can use this tool to explore science careers outside of academia and create an Individual Development Plan.

ChemIDP is an Individual Development Plan tool designed specifically for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in the chemical sciences. Learn more

Thinking about non-academic careers? The University of Maryland subscribes to a resource that demystifies non-academic careers and reveals many professions that can utilize the skills you are developing in graduate school. Learn more

Questions? Make an appointment with Dr. Susan Martin through Careers4Terps.