

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

NC STATE
The Graduate School

This roadmap is designed to help you navigate your doctoral journey, build career-ready skills, and prepare for a variety of career paths. Use it as a guide – not every recommendation will apply to you, and your department may have additional suggestions tailored to your field and goals.

	 DISCOVER FIRST YEAR	 DEVELOP MIDDLE YEARS	 DEMONSTRATE FINAL YEAR
 RESEARCH	- Familiarize yourself with best practices for data management - Attend a mentoring workshop - Complete lab/safety/compliance trainings - Attend departmental seminars and research talks - Get to know the NC State University Libraries	- Review the university's Authorship Guiding Principles - Practice explaining your research to those both within and outside your discipline - Organize your research documents in preparation for your written and oral comprehensive/qualifying exams	- Lead collaborative projects - Develop research statement and communicate to diverse audiences - Publish papers and/or submit pending papers to the field appropriate preprint for scholarly sharing - Prepare a research portfolio
 TEACHING	- Attend The New TA Workshop - Explore resources through the Graduate School, libraries, etc. - Develop appropriate balance between teaching and research - Review the criteria for the Teaching certificate	- Incorporate active learning strategies - Observe teaching by other TAs and/or professors - Make progress on Teaching Certificate (basic and/or advanced) through the Graduate School - Begin creating your teaching philosophy	- Finalize teaching philosophy - Build teaching portfolio for the academic job market (if applicable) - Apply to participate in Preparing the Professoriate (PTP) - Finish progress on skill-based learning (i.e. Teaching Certificate)
 COMMUNICATION SKILLS	- Join professional associations and start building relationships with peers in your field - Create/update your LinkedIn profile with your graduate student status - Attend networking events within your department and local area	- Build your career network and set up informational interviews among your digital networks - Write and present your work for public audiences through conferences and resources - Make progress on skill-based learning through the Graduate School's Communication Skills Certificate	- Prepare for job talks and interviews by tailoring communication presentations and materials based on career goals - Practice for your oral defense presentation with peers and mentors - Maintain professional network and reach out to individuals who can serve as references
 LEADERSHIP	- Lead yourself and treat your doctoral role as a professional one; manage your success by engaging in Academic Integrity - Identify your communication and work styles - Identify areas of strengths and areas for development by taking The Graduate School's Competencies Assessment	- Initiate conversations about career interests with advisor and start building a career strategy - Attend a networking event - Build a mentorship network with individuals both on and off campus - Engage in skills-based learning opportunities to develop leadership skills	- Lead a project, mentor a group of students, and/or collaborate with others - Prepare tailored job application materials - Develop a career strategy and reach out to career services for support - Document the impacts you are having and the leadership skills you are acquiring

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT [GRAD.NCSU.EDU/PROFESSIONAL-DEVELOPMENT](https://grad.ncsu.edu/professional-development)