How to be a Successful Graduate Student

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Graduate Student Seminar
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
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My PhD student: Mary Clair Thompson

She plans to graduate this Spring: Matrix Theory and Lie Group. Has 4 publications, 1 in preparation

https://sites.google.com/site/maryclairthompsonsclasswebpage/
My former PhD student: Dr. Roy Liu

Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Has 6 publications.

http://web2.utc.edu/pbj882/
Must have goal and plan

- Your target: MS, PhD, a good job such as a math professor....
- Areas: Mathematics and Statistics
- Research area: learn the research interests of our ~50 faculty members
  
  http://www.auburn.edu/cosam/faculty/math_stats/

- Graduation plan including timeline. See FAQs of the AU Graduate School. A graduation guide by our former student Scott Varagona has good advices.
Metric for success?

- Good GPA
- MS project, MS thesis, PhD dissertation
- Publications
- Better GTA stipend, GTA Fellowships & Scholarship, awards - performance based
- Jobs
Play by the rules

I will focus on PhD aspects in the forthcoming discussion. Similar ideas work for MS.

- Take classes, pass prelim exams
- Have an advisor ASAP, plan of study
- Homework: read papers, watch others do research
- Start writing papers, dissertation
- Hardworking, determination, persistence ...
I think this is the **most** important decision - alike marriage.

- Is the faculty member research active? Check MathSciNet
- Does his/her research interest match yours?
- His/her teaching style, research style, standard, personality
- Does he/she have time for you?
How to interact with your advisor

- Listen to your adviser
- Meetings with your advisor regularly, for example, biweekly or weekly
- Make an agenda for every meeting with your advisor
- Bring results and make your progress known to your advisor
Success requires hard work and good time management.

- Set priority
- Managing your day-to-day work life
- Being productive
- Don't spend negative energy, i.e., procrastinate
Jean Dieudonné (1906-1992)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Dieudonné
Preparing yourself

- Scientific typesetting. The standard is LaTeX. The graduate school has some LaTeX templates [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/etd_guide.html](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/etd_guide.html)
- Prepare yourself to be a better teacher - teaching training seminar, graduate student seminar
- Prepare yourself for future interview - attend research seminar, colloquium
- Conference, meeting, workshop, networking
The last but not the least:

Pay attention to the emails of

- your advisor
- Dr. Albrecht (GPO)
- Dr. Tam