

Graduate Student Mentoring and Advising Philosophy

As an advisor and mentor, I help graduate students achieve their educational and career goals while becoming independent, life-long learners and outstanding researchers and communication professionals. I also aim to create an active peer mentoring community among my current and former advisees. Below I summarize my primary responsibilities as an advisor and mentor and what I expect of my students.

I view my primary responsibilities as follows:

- Assist with course selection, program planning, and successful completion of degree requirements.
- Support brainstorming research paper plans each semester.
- Review research papers prior to submission to peer-reviewed conferences and journals (when adequate review time is provided) and assist throughout the publication process.
- Support the development of strong time management skills and work-life integration.
- Help problem solve any academic challenges.
- Assist with grant proposals.
- Assist in navigating teaching.
- Guide successful preparation for comprehensive exams.
- Guide dissertation topic selection, research, and writing.
- Guide preparation for a successful job search (academic and/or non-academic).
- Involve students in my research projects as possible and relevant.

I expect my advisees and mentees to:

- Ideally have a clear link to my expertise in risk/crisis communication and public relations.
- Be committed to their coursework and research.
- Be self-starters.
- Take responsibility for their program planning and successful completion of degree requirements.
- Carefully consider their academic and career goals and openly share this information with me.
- Come prepared to meetings to optimize our time.
- Develop time management skills.
- Develop a mentoring network (with my support).
- Be team players, collegial, and interested in positively contributing to the Department's graduate community.

In sum, my advising philosophy is best summed as “If you work hard, I work hard for you.”