Road Map to Graduate School
Admission Offer Letters & Tips for Success in Graduate Student

October 13, 2021
CONGRATULATIONS!

You are recommended for admission!

Decide which offer is the best offer…
Tips for Success in Graduate School

GRADUATE SCHOOL ROADMAP

Office of Graduate, Professional and Online Programs

GRAINGER ENGINEERING
Welcome Events - Orientation

- Department’s Graduate Program Director and Coordinator, and program website
- Academic or thesis advisor or mentor
- Assistantship and fellowship websites
- Career Services
- Graduate College
- Graduate Student Handbook
- Counseling Services
- Student Health Center
Academics

- Locate the Graduate Programs Office in your home department and get to know this team very well.
- Understand the program requirements and when courses are offered.
- Understand the timelines to complete the required milestones.
- Develop a balanced course schedule the first year – this allows you time to adjust.
- Ph.D. students take courses to prepare for qualifying exam.
- Read the student handbook carefully.
- Understand deadlines set by your home department, college, and university.
Resources – Where to Find Help

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It is very important to know when to ask for help!

It is never too soon to ask for help!
• Understand when a thesis advisor must be secured and what paperwork to complete
• Network with faculty to learn about research opportunities
• Network with current graduate students to learn about research groups
• Take an independent study from a potential thesis advisor to explore if this collaboration is a good fit
• Select a thesis advisor that fits your research interests and expectations, the amount of guidance you need, work style, etc.
• Attend research seminars throughout the year
• Understand the process to switch advisors if needed
Get Involved – Be Leaders

• Attend department grad seminars
• Participate in various events throughout the year
• Get involved in leadership organizations
• Get involved in mentoring programs
• Find at least one student organization, club, or volunteer organization to participate in – personal life balance
• Collaborate and network with other graduate students in the department and university.
Tips for Success

• Develop a strong network of peers
• Create a plan for your studies and career
• Secure a mentor – this can be your advisor or someone different
• Take ownership of your degree
• Self-care and wellness – work/life balance