I Wish I Knew That Earlier

Dr. Sherry Ryan
## Sample Ph.D. Program Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Course work  
- Begin thinking about your dissertation  
- Submit class papers to conferences or journals | - Course work  
- Think hard about your dissertation  
- Get to know faculty better  
- Think about who you want to chair your dissertation  
- Study for comps in the summer  
- Submit papers to conferences and journals | - Written comps (hopefully in July/ August and orals about 2-4 weeks later)  
- Propose dissertation  
- Submit papers to conferences and journals  
- Go to conference(s) and observe recruiting  
- Begin to understand recruiting process  
- Teach?  
- Submit nomination for doctoral consortium | - Interview at conferences  
- Attend doctoral consortium  
- Campus visits  
- Dissertation (defend hopefully by end of spring)  
- Submit papers to conference and journal  
- Teach |
Dissertation...I wish...

• ...I had taken seriously the advice to **start thinking about your dissertation topic** the moment you walk through the door

• ...I knew or decided my dissertation topic since first semester.
  ➢ All my research papers and conferences could actually focus to support the dissertation
  ➢ Perhaps could be used as pretest, validity test etc. for some constructs to be used in dissertation.
Publications...I wish...

- someone told me from the first semester how important it was to send every paper you have done to a conference/journal.
- I sent a paper to a journal much earlier, there is nothing to lose, just more feedback to use to make it a better paper!
- I had known how important publications are to your attractiveness to future employers. Some professors tell you they are...but I got some mixed signals during my program.”
Publication Takes a Long Time!

- Submit → reviewed by the Senior Editor →, an Associate Editor → peer reviewers.
- Usually you would get a “revise and resubmit” if the paper is not rejected.
- You will need to create a point-by-point response to each reviewers’ comments.
- Once resubmitted, the revised paper will usually be sent out to reviewers again.
- Once accepted, if may take another six months to several years before you article is actually printed.
- If the article is not accepted, then the process starts all over with another journal.

**EXAMPLE TIMEFRAME AFTER research is completed:**
4 months – initial review
6 months – revision
4 months – 2nd review
6 months – publication
20 months TOTAL***Many journals can take longer
Tools

- VMWare to keep working from remote.
- Google Docs that helps facilitate writing collaboration among students/authors.
- EndNote for citation management.
- Dropbox to keep our files in the cloud for free (up to 16 gigabytes) so we don't need to bother bringing our flash drive anywhere. To get a Dropbox account, one needs an invitation from those who had it.
- Gmail account offers unlimited calling and Google Voice for unlimited text, all for free across US and Canada.
- Yahoo Messenger account offers limited text worldwide.
Selecting Your Dissertation Chair

- Get to know the faculty
- The chair of your dissertation is the person with whom you work most closely.
  - Usually a tenured associate or full professor
  - Will you be able to get along with them? (Right chemistry).
  - Is the professor someone with whom you find it helpful and easy to brainstorm?
  - Have you found the feedback on earlier work with that faculty member helpful?
  - Do you have compatible work habits and personal characteristics.
  - Is his or her style of advising dissertations one that suits you? (Find out from other students)

http://www.google.com/#hl=en&client=psy-ab&q=selecting+your+dissertation+chair&oq=selecting+your+dissertation+chair&gs_l=hp.3...2318.26974.0.28128.33.19.0.14.14.0.205.2007.9j9j1.19.0.les%3B..0.0..1c.1.nczGR8d8yJg&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.&fp=9dac06e9a9126a6e&bpcl=35277026&biw=1080&bih=685
Selecting Your Dissertation Chair – Personality Traits to Choose or Avoid

- **Choose:**
  - Advocate
  - Manager
  - Leader
  - Fair Judge

- **Avoid:**
  - The Underachiever
  - The Non-Committer
  - The OverCriticizer
  - The Vacationer

http://johngarger.com/articles/dissertations/5-personality-traits-to-avoid-when-choosing-a-dissertation-chair;
Selecting Your Dissertation Committee

- Members should be chosen in consultation with your dissertation chair.
- Compose a complementary dissertation committee. They are often chosen to provide subject matter or methodological expertise.
- May be good at “brain-storming”
- One or more may be from another department
- Do not feel that you must or should include a faculty member on the committee because you have done coursework with them

- [Google search link]
Choosing a Dissertation Topic

- Jot down ideas for research while sitting in class and doing your reading. Keep a file.
- Something you are very interested in and can live with for the next seven years.
- It should be researchable - able to complete in about 2 years
- The topic should be significant and of interest to the profession.
- Fit with your dissertation chair.
Dissertation Process

- The dissertation is your responsibility.
  - Drive the process and keep control of it by working with externally imposed deadlines and managing your own schedule.
- Don’t avoid your advisor when work is not done on time, this will only hurt you.
- Continuous communication with your advisor is key.
- Make sure your project is doable.
- Be aware of your advisor’s style and expectations (e.g., short weekly meetings, etc.)
- Continuously update your schedule (with your advisor) based on progress. By considering this, you will be aware of slippage and adjustments.
Dissertation Schedule

- See handout
Doctoral Consortia

- Most major conferences have Doctoral and Junior Faculty Consortia that are prior to the conference. You should attempt to go to at least one of these—probably in your 3rd or 4th year.

- The following description came from the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS conference):

  “The Doctoral Consortium provides doctoral students working on their dissertation research an opportunity to share and develop their research ideas, explore issues related to academic and research careers in the Information Systems field, and build relationships with other IS PhD students from around the world.”

- Attendance for many doctoral consortia is competitive. You need to find out the rules (submission, departmental selection, etc.) – For example, ICIS is by invitation only. “Each university may submit only one nominee. Ph.D. students currently working on Information Systems dissertations are eligible for nomination submission. Candidates should successfully defend their dissertation/thesis proposals before the end of November (prior to the December conference), although they need not have defended their proposals before the submission deadline.”
Teaching

“I think for people like us who are most likely to go to teaching schools, the fact that what we can teach is important. To show, for example, I can teach business intelligence, we can have two approaches.

1. We do research concerning it.
2. Second, we take certain tests to get relevant industry certificates.

In the meantime, start cumulating relevant materials so we can share with our potential students. It can be interesting news, or videos. These materials can be a good supplement to textbook knowledge.
Questions?
Welcome to the Ph.D. Program...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Academic Competence</th>
<th>Perceived Academic Competence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **I**: Low Actual, Low Perceived
- **II**: Low Actual, High Perceived
- **III**: High Actual, Low Perceived
- **IV**: High Actual, High Perceived
I Wish I Knew...

- “...how stressful the first semester was going to be ahead of time, maybe that would have decreased the stress level :)

- “I wish someone told me how much reading it was going to be!”
Introduce Yourself

- Personally introduce yourself to the faculty
  - Don’t just rely on the formal introductions at departmental meetings
  - Have a one-on-one conversation
    - That faculty gets to know you better (strengths and weaknesses).
    - You also get to know the faculty well (research area that they work in). Hint: Look up their publications first.
    - Builds relationships that you can rely on way beyond your time in the Ph.D. program.