## Grad Student Career Road Map

Even though the **timeline** of master's and doctorate programs are very different, the career steps are similar. Break your program into three phases no matter how long it is, and calendar out milestones and goals so you can make measurable progress toward the future you want.

## Phase 1: Develop a Foundation

- EXPLORE CAREER INTERESTS: Take a Focus 2
  and/or Science Careers self-assessment. Watch
  Aurora Beyond the Professoriate videos about
  career paths and advice. Read job boards to see
  what employers are looking for in candidates.
- START NETWORKING: Join a graduate student organization or a professional society and start forming relationships with classmates and faculty.
- CREATE A GREAT CV OR RÉSUMÉ: Use Career Development Center resources such as the website, Vmock and career advising appointments to refine your résumé.
- ATTEND SOMETHING: Whether it's a career fair, grad workshop, conference or industry meeting, step out of your routine to learn and network.
  If you are traveling with faculty or other grad students, ask them to help you get introduced to their existing contacts.



## Phase 2: Build Your Reputation

- GET EXPERIENCE: Seek research, internship, teaching, mentorship and service opportunities to build your résumé. Figure out the most in-demand skills and experiences you need and focus your energy there.
- **DEEPEN YOUR NETWORK:** Seek a mentor in your field, set up informational interviews with people in careers of interest, stay in touch with conference contacts and start asking who's hiring.
- **LEAD IN YOUR FIELD:** Move from attending to leading (e.g., present at a conference, arrange a panel, write a grant, publish in your field). Now is the time to start becoming a "peer" in the field and not a "learner." Reputation building is very important for grad students.

## **Phase 3: Apply Your Skills**

- **FINALIZE YOUR RÉSUMÉ OR CV:** Update your résumé/CV regularly and ask at least three people to review it. Meet with a career advisor or faculty for help tailoring your résumé to your field and specific positions.
- REFINE APPLICATION MATERIALS: Polish your LinkedIn profile (your online résumé). Develop research and teaching statements if needed. Write a cover letter.
- **PRACTICE INTERVIEWING AND SALARY NEGOTIATION:** With a career advisor, mentor or faculty, practice interviewing or running through negotiation scenarios. Use **StandOut** for independent video interviewing practice.
- START APPLYING EARLY: Finding a great career fit can take time for people with advanced degrees. Start job searching and applying six months before graduation—one year out for academic searches. Remember, you want to be a "known candidate." Don't just toss out applications on the internet—reach out to recruiters and ask questions, call or email institutional contacts to say hello, ask for intros from your network, connect with OSU alums on LinkedIn who work where you want to work.

