

How to be a successful computer science grad student

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Dean of the Graduate Experience

Student Success

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Challenges in First Year

- Admissions/relocation/health insurance/housing
- Coursework/Learning balance
- Transition from professional role or undergrad role
- Uncertainty about advisor expectations
- Understanding program requirements, forms, policies
- Funding/shift in finances
- Time management
- Imposter Syndrome/sense of belonging

Finding Support

- First year seminars
- Professional development & leadership opportunities
- Colleagues, friends, family
- GPD/GPA/department staff
- Faculty Advisor/other faculty and mentors
- TA or RA supervisor
- Campus resources
- External resources
- Interests/hobbies
- Self-care/Mental health awareness

“Making the implicit explicit.” -Barbara Lovitts



Resources

- [Graduate School Tasks \(pdf\)](#)
- [Grad Student Responsibilities in Advising Relationship \(pdf\)](#)
- [Student/Advisor Roles and Responsibilities \(pdf\)](#)
- [How to get the mentoring you need \(worksheets\)](#)
 - [Taken from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graduate Mentoring Guidebook](#)
- [RPI Computer Science Graduate Handbook](#)
- [“So long, and thanks for the Ph.D.!” a.k.a “Everything I wanted to know about C.S. graduate school at the beginning but didn’t learn until later.” \(Azuma, 2017, 1997\)](#)
- Wagner, HH, Boyd, C, & Napper, R. (2016a). *How to share the process of graduate advising*. FACETS 1: pp. 263-279. Retrieved from <http://facetsjournal.com/article/facets-2015-0013/>