Graduate Professional Development Framework

The GPD Framework describes skills and experiences that will contribute to your academic and career success. Use it to reflect on your strengths, explore Stanford’s extensive resources and learning opportunities, and drive your own professional development.

Specialized Content Knowledge & Skills

- Conducting research & scholarship
- Collaborating within & across disciplines
- Understanding principles of teaching & learning
- Using effective instructional strategies
- Advising & mentoring
- Developing leadership & entrepreneurial skills
- Managing people & projects
- Negotiating & resolving conflicts
- Exploring career options
- Developing job search skills
- Networking
- Behaving ethically & with integrity
- Valuing diverse experiences & perspectives
- Solving problems & thinking creatively
- Applying digital & multimedia tools
- Speaking
- Writing

Career Development

Take the wheel. Navigate through grad school with the interactive GPD Framework at vpge.stanford.edu/framework
### Specialized Content Knowledge & Skills

**Learning advanced disciplinary knowledge & skills**
- developing expertise in your field through courses and other scholarly projects
- using theories, methods, and tools of your field as expected for your degree
- understanding the professional norms and expectations of your field

**Conducting research & scholarship**
- designing and conducting research and other scholarly activities
- developing intellectual independence and confidence in your ideas
- conducting research and scholarship according to standards of academic integrity and responsibility

**Collaborating within & across disciplines**
- working effectively in interdisciplinary teams
- adapting ideas and tools from other fields to your own work
- seeking opportunities to use your knowledge and skills to serve others and advance other fields

### Teaching

**Understanding principles of teaching & learning**
- creating syllabi, agendas, and lesson plans for formal courses and informal teaching settings
- aligning learning goals with content and instructional approach
- assessing the effectiveness of your teaching

**Using effective instructional strategies**
- mastering teaching techniques, such as lecturing, facilitating, demonstrating, leading discussions, and coaching
- applying appropriate tools and approaches, including instructional and evaluation technologies
- adapting your teaching techniques for different audiences and settings

**Advising & mentoring**
- cultivating relationships with advisors and mentors
- setting clear expectations and providing feedback for continuation and change
- sharing your experiences to mentor others academically and professionally

### Communication

**Writing**
- writing productively, clearly, succinctly, and in a style appropriate to your field and audience
- writing for academic purposes, such as for courses, research, presentation, or publication
- writing for professional purposes, such as correspondence, funding proposals, or job applications

**Speaking**
- expressing yourself confidently in courses, meetings, and workshops
- speaking persuasively in high-stakes situations such as a job interview or dissertation defense
- presenting in a public or professional forum, such as at a conference

**Applying digital & multimedia tools**
- developing skills and techniques to visualize and present your work and ideas
- creating and maintaining a professional online and social media presence
- sharing your work with non-academic audiences through a wide range of communication channels

### Leadership & Management

**Developing leadership & entrepreneurial skills**
- leading, influencing, and inspiring individuals and groups
- advancing ideas and projects by taking risks and exploring different directions
- contributing to relevant professional communities and organizations

**Managing people & projects**
- leading and collaborating with a wide range of individuals and teams, including peers and supervisors
- supervising individuals with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds
- completing projects successfully and on time

**Negotiating & resolving conflicts**
- advocating for yourself and on behalf of others
- engaging in difficult conversations with confidence
- moving a group from discord to shared goals

### Personal Development

**Solving problems & thinking creatively**
- implementing imaginative solutions to complex problems
- developing self-awareness and self-knowledge
- building resilience to manage stress and challenges

**Behaving ethically & with integrity**
- conducting yourself and your work with a high level of professionalism and integrity
- making ethical and fair decisions
- treating other people fairly and equitably

**Valuing diverse experiences & perspectives**
- respecting differing opinions and backgrounds
- recognizing and appreciating a wide range of cultural and global perspectives
- promoting inclusion, belonging, and community

### Career Development

**Exploring career options**
- understanding a variety of career paths
- discovering the job sectors and industries of most interest to you
- aligning your graduate studies, skills, and values with career opportunities

**Developing job search skills**
- identifying and preparing for career paths that are a good fit for you
- preparing appropriate application materials
- interviewing effectively in different settings

**Networking**
- developing relationships with a wide range of people and organizations
- learning about career paths from others
- sharing your professional experiences and inspiring others