



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY • SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM



GO GRAD is the program model for the MSU Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). MSU SROP gives undergraduate students a sense of the overall tools they will need for a successful graduate career.

MSU SROP provides undergraduate students with a “graduate experience” rather than “pre-graduate training.” MSU SROP participants have an opportunity to use MSU resources to develop their graduate and career plans.

MSU SROP provides four thematic areas of academic preparation for visiting undergraduate students:

1. graduate planning
2. research
3. academic resources
4. development

GRADUATE PLANNING

is vital to assembling a graduate application and building a successful academic career. From the freshman year of college to the completion of the doctoral dissertation, graduate planning is essential to success in an academic career.

- ▶ For successful graduate planning, explicit expectations must be set and the necessary resources must be put to use to meet career goals.
- ▶ Selecting the appropriate graduate path is essential to maximizing the potential of an academic career.

RESEARCH

is the primary component of most graduate-level programs, particularly those in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences.

- ▶ Effective skills in research and academic writing are essential to having a successful graduate career.
- ▶ Applying necessary qualitative and quantitative skills is essential to conducting graduate-level research.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

are an essential and readily available component in navigating the graduate school process. Having a total understanding of the resources that are available at a particular institution is imperative for successful completion of a graduate degree program.

- ▶ From the library to the statistics help room, many resources are available help graduate students to navigate successful degree completion.

DEVELOPMENT

is an explicit outcome of graduate training, which includes personal and professional growth. Students will take ownership of their attitudes, standards and behaviors in order to get the most out of their graduate school experience.

- ▶ Networking—forming personal and professional relationships—is essential to getting the most out of your graduate experience.
- ▶ As a developing professional in an academic community, it is imperative to understand your strengths and weaknesses and develop a sense of well-being.



GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH

GRADUATE

RESEARCH

ACADEMIC

DEVELOPMENT

ASSESS

Where do you stand?

- Understand academic vs. non-academic careers
- Set expectations
- Develop a graduate timeline

- Assess research skills
- Review quantitative and qualitative methods
- Conduct literature review

- Learn the climate of a research institution
- Explore library and academic support centers

- Assess professional skills
- Develop support systems
- Conduct a self-assessment
- Learn to give and receive constructive criticism

ADVANCE

How will you reach your goals?

- Learn graduate funding mechanisms
- Prepare information for letters of recommendation
- Receive graduate school and application advice

- Manage a research project
- Refine academic writing
- Develop problem solving skills
- Learn to conduct responsible research
- Understand research group or lab dynamics

- Improve testing strategies
- Use resources to mold career path
- Practice research integrity
- Participate in statistics course

- Build professional networks
- Enhance presentation skills through teaching
- Work independently
- Improve conflict resolution
- Manage work-life balance

ACHIEVE

How will you implement what you have learned?

- Improve personal statement
- Create curriculum vitae
- Start academic portfolio

- Publish papers
- Present research nationally
- Understand societal impacts of your research

- Attend workshops about graduate school expectations

- Present in cross-disciplinary settings
- Build vital skill set for next career stage