Faculty Advice to Graduates

If five or ten years from now you find yourself asking yourself, "Why did I major in philosophy?" Don't stop there. Take the time to answer the question, and you will be back on your path.

John E. Huss, Ph.D.
Professor, Philosophy

As the librarian for chemistry and other physical sciences, I like to relate this gem from Frank Westheimer, former chemist from Harvard. “A couple of months in the laboratory can frequently save a couple hours in the library.” Message – don’t waste time recreating the wheel.

Ian McCullough
Physical Sciences Librarian
Associate Professor, Bibliography

We all have a story. What’s yours? Where’s your passion? If you don’t know yet, relax, it’s ok; It’s like changing majors, you have time to get it right, to figure out what tugs at your heart. When you figure it out, roll with it and never stray far from your heart.

Paul E. Levy, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology

I want you to find those individuals who made it possible for you to be at this point in your life, and embrace them, thank them and tell them how much you appreciate them. I also want you to go to the dollar store and buy a book of thank you notes, and mail them a personal note.

Sheldon Wrice, Ph.D.
Associate Dean
Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences
One definition of creativity is finding new and different ways of screwing up.

Harvey L. Sterns, Ph.D., FGSA, FAPA, FAPS, FAGHE
Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Director and Senior Fellow, Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology

You will be working for the next 45 years. Don’t be in too big of a hurry to settle on a career. Thirty is a good age to commit. You are old enough to get a sense of what you like in life and work. You are still young enough to pursue whatever you want.

William E. Baker, Ph.D.
Professor Department of Marketing

Three recommendations: 1) Don’t take yourself too seriously, because no one else will, 2) The smartest people in the room are the ones with the best questions, not the ones with the answers, so learn to ask question, and 2) No one rises to low expectations.

Susan C. Hanlon, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
College of Business Administration

Don’t follow where it is lit. Start your own light so that the world is a brighter place tomorrow because of you.

Shi-Qing Wang, Ph.D.
Professor, Polymer Science
Trust yourself and do your research. Whatever it is you need to research, engage it richly: look, listen, and think with the tools you have acquired. Trust yourself to know when you have done enough research and it is time to act. Be kind.

Carolyn Behrman, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
Co-Director, EXL Experiential Learning Center

My advice to aspiring writers: Never write for the money, but always expect to get paid.

David Giffels
Professor of English
Campus Coordinator, NEOMFA Program in Creative Writing

The key to success in Supply Chain & Operations Management in particular, and business and life in general, is about maximizing value – adding to others.

Ray Gehani, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Management

While you are still young, take some risks. If a mistake happens, you have time to recover. If a success occurs, you have years to build upon.

Deborah L. Owens, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Marketing
Interim Chair, Department of Marketing
Jobs fill your pocket, adventures fill your soul. Be a proud Zip, take opportunities to travel and explore transformative experiences outside of your comfort zone.

Laura A. Richardson, Ph.D., ACSM-RCEP, EIM III  
Professor of Instruction, Exercise Science  
Chi Alpha Sigma Chapter Advisor

I have found that saying yes to a request to undertake something unfamiliar (and perhaps a bit intimidating) often has led to opportunity and personal growth that I could not have otherwise foreseen.

Linda Subich, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean  
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Most people, when riding in a canoe, jump in, paddle a little and let the current merrily carry them downstream. Their journey is at the whim of the current. But often the journey through life is not that easy and you may have to blaze a different path and even feel like you are constantly travelling upstream. When that happens, just remember to bring a paddle.

Heidi Cressman  
Director, Diversity and Inclusion for The College of Engineering

Success in one’s career is determined by a balance of three things: raw intelligence, hard work, and luck. Two of these three you have little control over. The third, hard work, is what you should pursue to maximize your chances for success going forward.

Stephen C. Weeks, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Biology
My late father (who in his words attended the College of Hard Knocks) would often remind me to “Keep your head full and your bowels empty!” My advice to graduates would be to build a good name for yourself, consistently, so that people will recognize that you are competent, capable, and have integrity. A good name is more desirable than great riches.

**Gary Schuller**  
Professor and Program Director  
Surveying and Mapping

As Yogi Berra said, “When you come to the fork in the road, take it!”

**Adam Sarata, MM**  
Academic Adviser II

Creativity and negativity cannot be in the same room together.

**David Flynn**  
Assistant Professor of Practice  
Myers School of Art

Always show up, and be prepared. Otherwise, you are likely to be assigned to a committee.

**Gary L. Miller, Ph.D.**  
President