

## **10 Tenets of Graduate School:**

1. Always act in a *professional manner*. This involves accomplishing goals on time, responding in a timely fashion, using proper grammar and complete sentences, and communicating effectively. Think deeply about what the professional thing to do is. Honesty is absolutely the best policy; integrity matters. In essence all remaining 9 tenets fall under this single tenet.
2. Take personal responsibility.
3. Problems, difficulties, and struggles are to be expected in graduate school; anticipate them, embrace them, deal with them, and move on. You are not entitled to anything; you must work hard to accomplish important goals, things won't simply be handed to you.
4. *Never* under any circumstances go over your advisor's head or behind his/her back. If any problems arise, and they probably will, see your advisor first. If after discussions with your advisor you are still at an impasse it should be easy for the advisor and student to agree to a third party to mediate (e.g. departmental chair).
5. Be aware of the cost of Science. Your advisor spends large amounts of money/resources to train you as a scientist. Be aware, and grateful, of these costs. Make sure you are deserving of this expenditure.
6. Your advisor *does* care about you. It may not, however, always seem that way. Your advisor wants you to succeed, wants you to be successful (why else would they spend so much money/resources/time on you?), and this means they need to push you beyond your comfort level.
7. Write/submit grants to excess.
8. Write/submit manuscripts to excess. Strive for quality over quantity, but quantity also matters in Science.
9. Don't forget your advisor is your boss, as such, treat him/her accordingly.
10. You may think you have the world figured out- you do not. Learn from those with more experience than you. Graduate school does not fully prepare you for an academic faculty job. Learn as much as you can from your advisor, and others, about *being* a faculty member, advisor, and mentor.