

## **Chancellor's Graduate & Professional Student Advisory Board (CGPSA) Graduate Student Resources Subcommittee Final Report 2022-2023**

*Subcommittee Members:* Anca Barcu, Alexandra Lazar, Ada Kanapskyte

### **Background and Accomplishments**

The Graduate Student Resources subcommittee has placed a strong emphasis on advancing the development of the graduate student survival guide/handbook this year. Building upon the foundation laid by the previous Graduate Student Finances subcommittee, which initially focused on financial matters and student debt, we have expanded the scope to encompass broader financial topics in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts this year have been dedicated to carrying forward the proposed graduate student survival guide, which was first introduced two years ago. In the previous year, the Graduate Student Finances subcommittee laid the groundwork for initiating the development process. We actively engaged with stakeholders from the communications and finance departments on campus to gain insights into their strategies for addressing graduate student financial concerns. This collaborative approach allowed us to identify opportunities for cooperation and bridge existing gaps where the CGPSA could provide valuable support.

Through these interactions, we gathered valuable information on communication guidelines, existing materials related to graduate student finances, and identified stakeholders who expressed interest in driving the project forward and providing necessary resources. Notably, a significant connection was established with Nicole Rabaud, the dedicated Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support. We presented Nicole with a preliminary outline for a comprehensive graduate student survival guide that could be universally adopted across diverse departments and disciplines. Her commitment and support have been instrumental in ensuring the successful development of the survival guide. In the current year, the Graduate Student Resources subcommittee has continued to collaborate closely with Nicole, working diligently to transform the survival guide into a comprehensive "handbook." We are determined to see this project come to fruition in the upcoming academic year. The following sections will outline the notable progress we have made thus far in realizing this important resource for graduate students.

### **Meetings and Information Gathering**

Throughout the year, our committee demonstrated a steadfast commitment to our mission through a series of Zoom meetings and consistent email communication. These platforms served as vital conduits for exchanging ideas, deliberating on our objectives, assigning responsibilities, and establishing clear deliverables for the upcoming year. In order to guide our efforts and ensure a cohesive approach, we collectively outlined the following goals:

1. *Continue the Development of the Graduate Student Handbook:* We will dedicate our efforts to advancing the development of the graduate student handbook. Through collaboration, research, and expert input, we aim to create a comprehensive and user-friendly resource that addresses the diverse needs of graduate students.

2. *Enhance the Accessibility of the Graduate Website:* We recognize the importance of an easily understandable graduate website. Our goal is to improve its clarity, organization, and user-friendliness. By streamlining the navigation and optimizing content, we aim to provide a seamless and intuitive online experience for graduate students.
3. *Promote Visibility of the 'Graduate Student Resource Guide':* We will work towards ensuring the 'graduate student resource guide' is prominently displayed on the grad studies website. By strategically placing it in a prominent location, we aim to enhance its visibility, making it easily accessible to all graduate students seeking valuable resources and information.
4. *Meeting with Nicole and Erum:* We plan to schedule a meeting with Nicole, the Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, and Erum, a key stakeholder. This meeting will serve as an opportunity to gather feedback, discuss potential enhancements, and explore collaborative avenues to further improve the graduate student experience.
5. *Organize an In-Person Workshop for Graduate Students:* As part of our commitment to fostering professional development and academic success, we will organize an in-person workshop exclusively for graduate students. This workshop will provide valuable insights, skills, and resources to support their scholarly endeavors and personal growth.
  - *Grant Writing Workshop with Alexandra:* Alexandra, an expert in grant writing, will curate a workshop focused on this essential skill. The workshop will equip graduate students with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively prepare and submit successful grant proposals.
  - *Consulting Event for International Students with Anca:* Anca, with her expertise in consulting, will spearhead a curated event specifically designed for international students. This event will provide guidance, networking opportunities, and resources to assist international students in exploring and pursuing consulting career paths.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the goal-setting meeting took place in late January, which led to delays in finalizing the subcommittee's membership. As a consequence, several of the goals established, with the exception of the graduate student handbook, could not be fully realized within the designated time frame due to time constraints.

### **March 3rd, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members.

Summary: The subcommittee members met and discussed progress since goals were established at the end of January. The group had sent out an email to contact Nicole Rabaud about the state of the handbook, however, no response had been received yet. It was later made clear that there was a miscommunication about who from the CGPSA would carry on work on the handbook.

Once this was cleared up, the subcommittee partnered with the CGPSA chair to continue the work.

### **March 10th, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Nicole Rabaud - Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support and Hellen Hartigan O'Connor - Associate Dean for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars, Professor of History.

Summary: This was the first of monthly meetings with Nicole and Hellen to discuss the development of the handbook. Hellen pointed out the need for a more appealing format written from the perspective of graduate students with specific tone and style. We also discussed ways of promoting the guide once it was finalized.

### **May 12th, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Nicole Rabaud - Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, Hellen Hartigan O'Connor - Associate Dean for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars, Professor of History.

Summary: In this second meeting with Nicole and Hellen, the group discussed the main themes that were picked for writing into the handbook. Hellen proposed an idea to restructure the handbook into a more informal format of "what I wish I knew" in graduate school as the prompt leading into many topics such as finances, well-being, housing, transportation, etc. The group agreed to this format and the subcommittee was tasked with coming up with a new outline for the handbook.

### **Weekly Handbook Meeting: May 22nd, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Ryan Hodge - Graduate Student Advisor to the Dean and Chancellor.

Summary: Our approach to completing the graduate student guide involves outlining 10 key themes and engaging in regular meetings with Ryan to expand upon each theme with vital information. By dedicating one meeting to each theme, our aim is to finalize the information gathering and compilation within a span of 10 weeks. Once the necessary information is compiled, Ryan will utilize their expertise to write the guide in a manner that is accessible and easily comprehensible to the intended audience.

### **Findings**

Various UC Davis stakeholders were open to our project, even if we were unable to start working right during Fall Quarter. Both Hellen and Nicole showed interest in the project and had valuable suggestions for the content, tone and process which we have agreed to and will carry on during the summer. However, we were met with reluctance for seeing the project through until late Spring Quarter. Nicole Rabaud, the new Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral support met our survival guide idea with both enthusiasm and actionable tasks. For now, our tangible outcome is only an outline, but we hope for a draft of the guide to be ready in the next academic year as mentioned in the previous section. Below is the outline we created.

Link to working document: [Student Handbook - Google Docs](#)

Below is the previous year's outline.

## **Graduate Student Survival Guide**

### **Funding Grad School**

Establishing Residency for Tuition Purposes

Employment

- UC Path
- Teaching Assistantships
- Research Assistantships

Internal Funding

- Internal fellowship application

External Funding

- Grants
- Pivot - search engine for funding

Federal Aid (FAFSA)

- Campus fee grant eligibility
- Mentioned it's required to have one on file for certain aid (e.g. Aggie Compass funds)

Fellowships

Short Term/Emergency Funding

- Financial Aid Office - Emergency, Short-Term, Assistant Loans
- Aggie Compass

Payment Disbursement

- Direct Deposit
- Disbursement Info

Travel Awards

- GSA
- Grad Studies
- Departmental

### **Basic Needs**

- Define Basic Needs and Aggie Compass
- Food (List resources, short description, and provide link)
  - Pantry/Freedge - Free food and personal hygiene items
  - Calfresh - Food stamps - Free food California state program
- Housing
  - Emergency rehousing
  - Housing for families

### **Grad Program Information**

Office supplies

Photocopying

Equipment

Poster printing

**Taxes**

- Explain taxing system in the US briefly - not withheld
- Obligatory annual filing
- Forms: W-2, 1042-S, etc
- Glacier
- Residency for tax purposes
- UC Davis Vita
- FTB seminar by SISS
- GSA seminar

**Information for Student Parents and Caregivers**

- Childcare + support + daycare
- Caregiving

**Wellness Resources**

Utilizing UC SHIP

Mental Health

- Ombuds
- SHCS Counseling Services

Physical Health

Additionally, a group from several years ago rendered several designs which can be utilized once the guide is developed fully. These designs are shown on the following pages.

# Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Housing Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Student Finances Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Student Parent Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



**UC DAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



## Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



---

Name
Email
Message
Send Message







# Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



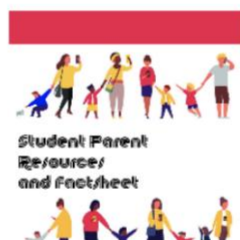
01

Housing



02

Student Finances



03

Student Parent



04

Basic Needs

## Recommendations

Our subcommittee embarked on an ambitious mission to create a comprehensive and captivating graduate student survival guide throughout the academic year. While we were unable to fully complete this endeavor, we have laid down the foundation by developing an outline. Our unwavering determination to provide an exceptional resource for graduate students pushes us to



strive for its eventual completion. To achieve this, we have devised a set of recommendations that will propel us forward:

***Maintain contact with key people:***

1. One crucial individual to establish and sustain contact with is Nicole Rabaud, the esteemed Executive Director for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars. Nicole has graciously taken on the responsibility of expanding upon our outline. It is imperative that we remain in touch with her to ensure continuous progress and the attainment of our shared vision.

***Develop a stand-alone guide for widespread distribution:***

2. We envision a guide that possesses the ability to function independently, catering to the diverse needs and requirements of various graduate groups. By crafting a resource that can be adapted by different cohorts, we empower each group to tailor the guide to their specific circumstances. This approach will foster inclusivity and guarantee the guide's usefulness across a wide range of academic disciplines and programs.

***Implement an active update mechanism:***

3. To ensure the longevity and relevance of the guide, it is vital to establish a system for regular updates. We propose that individual graduate departments take ownership of maintaining and refreshing the content on a yearly basis. By involving multiple departments, we can tap into their expertise and diverse perspectives, thus enriching the guide and preventing it from becoming outdated and underutilized.

The diligent efforts of our subcommittee will continue during the summer, as we remain steadfast in our commitment to refine and finalize the ten thematic pillars that will form the backbone of the forthcoming graduate student survival guide. The ongoing meetings scheduled throughout this period serve as the crucible for our collective creativity and scholarly endeavors, aiming to produce an authoritative handbook ready for wide dissemination in the upcoming Fall. As the summer unfolds, our subcommittee members engage in rigorous deliberations, meticulously scrutinizing and revising each theme to ensure their coherence, relevance, and applicability to the diverse needs of graduate students. Every meeting is an opportunity for critical evaluation and collaborative refinement, as we strive to cultivate a comprehensive resource that resonates with the academic community.

Once the arduous task of writing reaches its culmination, our subcommittee has planned to engage in a subsequent stage of the process. In this phase, we intend to convene meetings with esteemed individuals such as Nicole and Hellen, recognized authorities in the field. These consultations will serve a dual purpose: first, to seek their invaluable feedback and insights, which will further enhance the quality and efficacy of the handbook; and second, to discuss strategies and mechanisms for effectively promoting and disseminating the completed guide to the wider academic community. By adhering to this meticulous approach, our subcommittee is

poised to deliver an erudite and scholarly graduate student survival guide, fortified by the collective wisdom and expertise of the committee members, and supplemented by the invaluable contributions of key figures in the field.

### **Summary and Future Directions**

We have made significant strides towards the creation of the graduate student guide and anticipate its completion by the conclusion of the summer, in preparation for distribution in Fall 2023. Currently, we have accomplished over 10% of the guide's content and remain optimistic about completing the remaining work within the allocated 10-week timeframe. Our aim is to have the guide readily available during the upcoming academic year. The completion of the guide's outline marked a crucial initial step in this endeavor. Recognizing the magnitude of the task at hand, we have enlisted the support of a dedicated full-time UC Davis employee who will lend their expertise and resources to flesh out the outline with relevant and comprehensive information. It is imperative to emphasize that future groups embarking on similar initiatives should be aware of the existing support within the UC Davis staff, as graduate students may face time constraints that make it challenging to undertake such a substantial undertaking alone.

Distributing the guide to all graduate groups holds immense value, as it serves as a foundational resource that can be further customized or modified to cater to the specific requirements of each program. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among graduate groups, the guide becomes a robust framework upon which individual programs can build, ensuring a comprehensive and tailored approach to student support. Moreover, the guide will be adaptable to future developments and emerging opportunities, allowing for timely updates to ensure its ongoing relevance and usefulness for incoming graduate students from diverse backgrounds. This undertaking aligns with UC Davis's commitment to promoting equity in graduate programs. By providing easily accessible and comprehensive information, we contribute to leveling the playing field and facilitating the success of all graduate students. Our primary objective is to equip students with a concise, clear format that encompasses essential resources, enabling not only their academic achievements but also their personal financial well-being. By empowering graduate students with these crucial tools, we take substantial strides towards advancing their overall success.

### **Graduate & Professional Student Advisory Board (CGPSA) Graduate Student Resources Subcommittee Final Report 2022-2023**

*Subcommittee Members:* Anca Barcu, Alexandra Lazar, Ada Kanapskyte

### **Background and Accomplishments**

The Graduate Student Resources subcommittee has placed a strong emphasis on advancing the development of the graduate student survival guide/handbook this year. Building upon the foundation laid by the previous Graduate Student Finances subcommittee, which initially focused on financial matters and student debt, we have expanded the scope to encompass broader financial topics in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts this year have been dedicated to carrying forward the proposed graduate student survival

guide, which was first introduced two years ago. In the previous year, the Graduate Student Finances subcommittee laid the groundwork for initiating the development process. We actively engaged with stakeholders from the communications and finance departments on campus to gain insights into their strategies for addressing graduate student financial concerns. This collaborative approach allowed us to identify opportunities for cooperation and bridge existing gaps where the CGPSA could provide valuable support.

Through these interactions, we gathered valuable information on communication guidelines, existing materials related to graduate student finances, and identified stakeholders who expressed interest in driving the project forward and providing necessary resources. Notably, a significant connection was established with Nicole Rabaud, the dedicated Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support. We presented Nicole with a preliminary outline for a comprehensive graduate student survival guide that could be universally adopted across diverse departments and disciplines. Her commitment and support have been instrumental in ensuring the successful development of the survival guide. In the current year, the Graduate Student Resources subcommittee has continued to collaborate closely with Nicole, working diligently to transform the survival guide into a comprehensive "handbook." We are determined to see this project come to fruition in the upcoming academic year. The following sections will outline the notable progress we have made thus far in realizing this important resource for graduate students.

### **Meetings and Information Gathering**

Throughout the year, our committee demonstrated a steadfast commitment to our mission through a series of Zoom meetings and consistent email communication. These platforms served as vital conduits for exchanging ideas, deliberating on our objectives, assigning responsibilities, and establishing clear deliverables for the upcoming year. In order to guide our efforts and ensure a cohesive approach, we collectively outlined the following goals:

1. *Continue the Development of the Graduate Student Handbook:* We will dedicate our efforts to advancing the development of the graduate student handbook. Through collaboration, research, and expert input, we aim to create a comprehensive and user-friendly resource that addresses the diverse needs of graduate students.
2. *Enhance the Accessibility of the Graduate Website:* We recognize the importance of an easily understandable graduate website. Our goal is to improve its clarity, organization, and user-friendliness. By streamlining the navigation and optimizing content, we aim to provide a seamless and intuitive online experience for graduate students.
3. *Promote Visibility of the 'Graduate Student Resource Guide':* We will work towards ensuring the 'graduate student resource guide' is prominently displayed on the grad studies website. By strategically placing it in a prominent location, we aim to enhance its visibility, making it easily accessible to all graduate students seeking valuable resources and information.

4. Meeting with Nicole and Erum: We plan to schedule a meeting with Nicole, the Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, and Erum, a key stakeholder. This meeting will serve as an opportunity to gather feedback, discuss potential enhancements, and explore collaborative avenues to further improve the graduate student experience.

5. Organize an In-Person Workshop for Graduate Students: As part of our commitment to fostering professional development and academic success, we will organize an in-person workshop exclusively for graduate students. This workshop will provide valuable insights, skills, and resources to support their scholarly endeavors and personal growth.

- Grant Writing Workshop with Alexandra: Alexandra, an expert in grant writing, will curate a workshop focused on this essential skill. The workshop will equip graduate students with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively prepare and submit successful grant proposals.
- Consulting Event for International Students with Anca: Anca, with her expertise in consulting, will spearhead a curated event specifically designed for international students. This event will provide guidance, networking opportunities, and resources to assist international students in exploring and pursuing consulting career paths.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the goal-setting meeting took place in late January, which led to delays in finalizing the subcommittee's membership. As a consequence, several of the goals established, with the exception of the graduate student handbook, could not be fully realized within the designated time frame due to time constraints.

### **March 3rd, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members.

Summary: The subcommittee members met and discussed progress since goals were established at the end of January. The group had sent out an email to contact Nicole Rabaud about the state of the handbook, however, no response had been received yet. It was later made clear that there was a miscommunication about who from the CGPSA would carry on work on the handbook. Once this was cleared up, the subcommittee partnered with the CGPSA chair to continue the work.

### **March 10th, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Nicole Rabaud - Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support and Hellen Hartigan O'Connor - Associate Dean for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars, Professor of History.

Summary: This was the first of monthly meetings with Nicole and Hellen to discuss the development of the handbook. Hellen pointed out the need for a more appealing format written from the perspective of graduate students with specific tone and style. We also discussed ways of promoting the guide once it was finalized.

## **May 12th, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Nicole Rabaud - Executive Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, Hellen Hartigan O'Connor - Associate Dean for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars, Professor of History.

Summary: In this second meeting with Nicole and Hellen, the group discussed the main themes that were picked for writing into the handbook. Hellen proposed an idea to restructure the handbook into a more informal format of “what I wish I knew” in graduate school as the prompt leading into many topics such as finances, well-being, housing, transportation, etc. The group agreed to this format and the subcommittee was tasked with coming up with a new outline for the handbook.

## **Weekly Handbook Meeting: May 22nd, 2023 Meeting**

Attendees: Subcommittee members, Ryan Hodge - Graduate Student Advisor to the Dean and Chancellor.

Summary: Our approach to completing the graduate student guide involves outlining 10 key themes and engaging in regular meetings with Ryan to expand upon each theme with vital information. By dedicating one meeting to each theme, our aim is to finalize the information gathering and compilation within a span of 10 weeks. Once the necessary information is compiled, Ryan will utilize their expertise to write the guide in a manner that is accessible and easily comprehensible to the intended audience.

## **Findings**

Various UC Davis stakeholders were open to our project, even if we were unable to start working right during Fall Quarter. Both Hellen and Nicole showed interest in the project and had valuable suggestions for the content, tone and process which we have agreed to and will carry on during the summer. However, we were met with reluctance for seeing the project through until late Spring Quarter. Nicole Rabaud, the new Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral support met our survival guide idea with both enthusiasm and actionable tasks. For now, our tangible outcome is only an outline, but we hope for a draft of the guide to be ready in the next academic year as mentioned in the previous section. Below is the outline we created.

Link to working document: [Student Handbook - Google Docs](#)

Below is the previous year's outline.

## **Graduate Student Survival Guide**

### **Funding Grad School**

Establishing Residency for Tuition Purposes

Employment

- UC Path
- Teaching Assistantships
- Research Assistantships

Internal Funding

- Internal fellowship application

### External Funding

- Grants
- Pivot - search engine for funding

### Federal Aid (FAFSA)

- Campus fee grant eligibility
- Mentioned it's required to have one on file for certain aid (e.g. Aggie Compass funds)

### Fellowships

### Short Term/Emergency Funding

- Financial Aid Office - Emergency, Short-Term, Assistant Loans
- Aggie Compass

### Payment Disbursement

- Direct Deposit
- Disbursement Info

### Travel Awards

- GSA
- Grad Studies
- Departmental

## Basic Needs

- Define Basic Needs and Aggie Compass
- Food (List resources, short description, and provide link)
  - Pantry/Freedge - Free food and personal hygiene items
  - Calfresh - Food stamps - Free food California state program
- Housing
  - Emergency rehousing
  - Housing for families

## Grad Program Information

Office supplies

Photocopying

Equipment

Poster printing

## Taxes

- Explain taxing system in the US briefly - not withheld
- Obligatory annual filing
- Forms: W-2, 1042-S, etc
- Glacier
- Residency for tax purposes
- UC Davis Vita
- FTB seminar by SISS
- GSA seminar

## Information for Student Parents and Caregivers

- Childcare + support + daycare

- Caregiving

**Wellness Resources**

Utilizing UC SHIP

Mental Health

- Ombuds
- SHCS Counseling Services

Physical Health

Additionally, a group from several years ago rendered several designs which can be utilized once the guide is developed fully. These designs are shown on the following pages.



# Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Housing Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Student Finances Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Student Parent Resources and Factsheet



**UCDAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

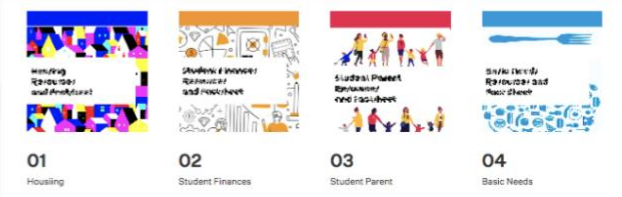


**UC DAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



## Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



---

Name
Email
Message
Send Message





# Grad Student Survival Guide

Context and Resources for  
Navigating Graduate School



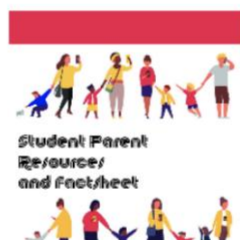
01

Housing



02

Student Finances



03

Student Parent



04

Basic Needs

## Recommendations

Our subcommittee embarked on an ambitious mission to create a comprehensive and captivating graduate student survival guide throughout the academic year. While we were unable to fully complete this endeavor, we have laid down the foundation by developing an outline. Our unwavering determination to provide an exceptional resource for graduate students pushes us to

strive for its eventual completion. To achieve this, we have devised a set of recommendations that will propel us forward:

***Maintain contact with key people:***

1. One crucial individual to establish and sustain contact with is Nicole Rabaud, the esteemed Executive Director for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars. Nicole has graciously taken on the responsibility of expanding upon our outline. It is imperative that we remain in touch with her to ensure continuous progress and the attainment of our shared vision.

***Develop a stand-alone guide for widespread distribution:***

2. We envision a guide that possesses the ability to function independently, catering to the diverse needs and requirements of various graduate groups. By crafting a resource that can be adapted by different cohorts, we empower each group to tailor the guide to their specific circumstances. This approach will foster inclusivity and guarantee the guide's usefulness across a wide range of academic disciplines and programs.

***Implement an active update mechanism:***

3. To ensure the longevity and relevance of the guide, it is vital to establish a system for regular updates. We propose that individual graduate departments take ownership of maintaining and refreshing the content on a yearly basis. By involving multiple departments, we can tap into their expertise and diverse perspectives, thus enriching the guide and preventing it from becoming outdated and underutilized.

The diligent efforts of our subcommittee will continue during the summer, as we remain steadfast in our commitment to refine and finalize the ten thematic pillars that will form the backbone of the forthcoming graduate student survival guide. The ongoing meetings scheduled throughout this period serve as the crucible for our collective creativity and scholarly endeavors, aiming to produce an authoritative handbook ready for wide dissemination in the upcoming Fall. As the summer unfolds, our subcommittee members engage in rigorous deliberations, meticulously scrutinizing and revising each theme to ensure their coherence, relevance, and applicability to the diverse needs of graduate students. Every meeting is an opportunity for critical evaluation and collaborative refinement, as we strive to cultivate a comprehensive resource that resonates with the academic community.

Once the arduous task of writing reaches its culmination, our subcommittee has planned to engage in a subsequent stage of the process. In this phase, we intend to convene meetings with esteemed individuals such as Nicole and Hellen, recognized authorities in the field. These consultations will serve a dual purpose: first, to seek their invaluable feedback and insights, which will further enhance the quality and efficacy of the handbook; and second, to discuss strategies and mechanisms for effectively promoting and disseminating the completed guide to the wider academic community. By adhering to this meticulous approach, our subcommittee is

poised to deliver an erudite and scholarly graduate student survival guide, fortified by the collective wisdom and expertise of the committee members, and supplemented by the invaluable contributions of key figures in the field.

### **Summary and Future Directions**

We have made significant strides towards the creation of the graduate student guide and anticipate its completion by the conclusion of the summer, in preparation for distribution in Fall 2023. Currently, we have accomplished over 10% of the guide's content and remain optimistic about completing the remaining work within the allocated 10-week timeframe. Our aim is to have the guide readily available during the upcoming academic year. The completion of the guide's outline marked a crucial initial step in this endeavor. Recognizing the magnitude of the task at hand, we have enlisted the support of a dedicated full-time UC Davis employee who will lend their expertise and resources to flesh out the outline with relevant and comprehensive information. It is imperative to emphasize that future groups embarking on similar initiatives should be aware of the existing support within the UC Davis staff, as graduate students may face time constraints that make it challenging to undertake such a substantial undertaking alone.

Distributing the guide to all graduate groups holds immense value, as it serves as a foundational resource that can be further customized or modified to cater to the specific requirements of each program. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among graduate groups, the guide becomes a robust framework upon which individual programs can build, ensuring a comprehensive and tailored approach to student support. Moreover, the guide will be adaptable to future developments and emerging opportunities, allowing for timely updates to ensure its ongoing relevance and usefulness for incoming graduate students from diverse backgrounds. This undertaking aligns with UC Davis's commitment to promoting equity in graduate programs. By providing easily accessible and comprehensive information, we contribute to leveling the playing field and facilitating the success of all graduate students. Our primary objective is to equip students with a concise, clear format that encompasses essential resources, enabling not only their academic achievements but also their personal financial well-being. By empowering graduate students with these crucial tools, we take substantial strides towards advancing their overall success.