

Characteristics Associated with Success in Graduate School (and Professional Life)

- ◆ Motivation / Drive / Ambition
- ◆ Willingness to work hard
- ◆ Intellectual curiosity / Love of learning / Genuine interest in discovery
- ◆ Ability to tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity
- ◆ Persistence / Ability to work through problems repeatedly (don't expect quick and easy answers)
- ◆ Flexibility
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Self-confidence
- ◆ Independence (ability to work without constant reassurance / hand-holding)
- ◆ Ability to delay gratification
- ◆ Ability to make on multiple tasks at one time / prioritize
- ◆ Time management/organizational skills
- ◆ Love of abstract reasoning
- ◆ Analytical/logical thinking
- ◆ Self-discipline
- ◆ Sense of humor
- ◆ Moderate risk-taking
- ◆ Openness to experience
- ◆ Creativity and self-investment in research ideas (instead of imitation of others' work)
- ◆ Oral and written communication skills
- ◆ Ability to sit for a long time and listen/think without talking (especially in clinical work) or the ability to work alone
- ◆ Enjoyment of academics (for graduate school success and success in academic jobs)