

# Three Tips for Running a Research Program (& mentoring graduate students)\*

OWISE/ADVANCEING Faculty Program  
College of Engineering & Science  
Louisiana Tech University

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\*Adapted from **Good Practices - Advising and Mentoring Graduate Students**  
**The Ohio State University Graduate School**

# Collaborate

- A Dissertation committee has five members.
  - At least one of these should be an active collaborator
  - This implies collaborative funding
- (At Tech) Multi-author work = single author work for T&P
- Collaborative work reduces the potential for and suspicion of bogus results
  - Publishing in “better” journals will be easier
- Students work better in an environment with  
more peer-accountability
- You live in Ruston.
  - This may provide an opportunity to leave town
- NSF/NIH increasingly asks for this
- Send research proposals to at least three agencies

Research shows  
off-campus  
collaboration  
produces the  
“best” pubs...

Bonus: Pay someone to do jobs others can do more efficiently. (Mow yard, taxes, pest control, clean house)

# Advise Grad Students on Time Management

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- **Invest Time**
  - Each thesis/dissertation student is 1 class hour (Understand and ignore the irrelevant guidelines on the Activity Report)
- **Communicate Consistently and Frequently**
  - Clarify expectations early
  - No hiding
- **Maintain a Structured and Predictable Environment**
  - Divide tasks into modular projects for students
  - Review progress regularly, quarterly
- **Demonstrate your Interest in Developing your Advisee**
- **Assessment**
  - Make clear your standards for quality of work

# Build an Environment where Students are Well-trained for a Specific Industry

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- 2/3 of Ph. D. grads do not work in Academia
- Avoid work on long-term unfunded projects
- Don't advise unfunded students
- Remember student publication expectations
- Collaborative industry work is easier to get funded (at Tech?) \*
- Classes are not efficient at training, except in specific tasks. Use training at professional conferences to supplement

Work with  
Industry  
Partners and  
Advisors

Bonus: Train students to give specific lectures in your classes

# References

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- <http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/disscalc/>
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