Research Timeline and Checklist

The overarching research goals in graduate school are to publish and obtain funding to do more research. However, there are many smaller steps that go into becoming a prolific and well-funded scholar. As such, the research timeline and checklist offers a year-by-year set of goals that, if achieved, will allow graduate students to go onto the job market with multiple publications, presentations, and grants. Take the goals and timeline as rough guidance, not as commandments for success. Graduate students on the path to a teaching position may replace many of these activities with the pedagogical accomplishments outlined in the next chapter, but the path to a doctoral university may require more publications than are listed on this timeline.

Year 1

- □ Find a primary research mentor.
- □ Begin assisting primary research mentor on projects.
- □ Seek opportunities to supervise research laboratories and research assistants.
- □ Apply for local research and travel grants.

Year 2

- □ Present a collaborative research project at a professional conference.
- □ Obtain coauthorship on a journal publication.
- □ Propose a thesis project.
- □ Apply for a small, nationally-sponsored travel or research grant specifically for graduate students.
- □ Conduct thesis research.
- □ Present preliminary thesis data at a professional conference.
- □ Seek opportunities to assist your mentor with peer reviewing of grants or journal articles.
- □ Defend thesis.

Year 3

- □ Publish thesis as a first-authored journal article.
- □ Apply for a larger, nationally-sponsored travel or research grant specifically for graduate students.
- □ Engage in a project with a collaborator other than your primary mentor.
- □ Publish a journal article with collaborators other than your primary mentor.
- □ Present current research at a conference.
- □ Conduct an original research project as lead author.
- □ Seek peer-review opportunities in a journal within your specialization.

Year 4+

- □ Publish an original research project as a lead author.
- □ Apply for a grant as a co-investigator.
- □ Apply for dissertation research grant.
- □ Propose dissertation project
- □ Conduct dissertation research.
- □ Defend dissertation.
- □ Present dissertation or other research as a symposium at a conference.
- □ Publish dissertation as a first-authored journal article.
- □ Seek opportunities to peer-review research grants or awards.
- □ Apply for postdoctoral positions if you need additional experience or time to obtain necessary research qualifications after graduation.

This material is a companion to *Becoming a Psychology Professor: Your Guide to Landing the Right Academic Job*, by Guy A. Boysen. An overview of the book can be viewed on the American Psychological Association website (https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4313054).

Additional supplemental material is available on the book's companion website (http://pubs.apa.org/books/supp/boysen/).