section 1

The Academic Success Kit (ASK)
Graduate Pathways to Success (GPS)

Graduate school is a journey toward academic and career success. Your journey is unique to your needs and interests. Use your ASK binder as a personalized navigator to help you calibrate your unique journey and gather and develop the tools you need.

In the ASK binder, we give you overviews or maps of the landscape of graduate school. The information and navigation guides in this binder are your GPS to help you actively look ahead, discover useful resources and opportunities, map strategic academic and career pathways, and make your journey at CGU productive, well-balanced, and some of the best years of your life.

Consider Success

What does it really mean when you say "I want to succeed in graduate school"?

Success in coursework means managing your academic workload, reading a lot, working efficiently with large amounts of information, thinking critically, generating ideas, asking good questions, working with multiple perspectives, using academic digital tools effectively, collaborating with others, and presenting your work in written and spoken form.

That's a lot. But that is just part of the journey.

Success beyond coursework means developing a vision for your future, integrating into your professional domain, building networks, developing a portfolio of professional work, learning to be mindful of your well-being, and discovering who you are as a leader.

Success means being future-centric, succeeding today while working strategically for tomorrow.

Your *ASK* Binder Contents

The Values pages for each section tell you why and how this area life is important for your success in graduate school—and beyond. Note that while there are discrete sections, real life is far more integrated and so information and resources will overlap. We hope the sections will cue you in to these important facets of graduate student success.

The Information and Tools pages give you a broad view of resources, areas you must think about, and checklists or questions to help you work through and gather the information and skills you need for success.

We have deliberately not given you a large amount of information. Rather, we have provided essential information and directions so that you are actively engaged in your success at CGU. Use these navigation tools to sharpen the skills and knowledge you bring with you, and to develop new knowledge and skills while you are here. These tools will help you become proactive and strategic in achieving your success at CGU and beyond.

Principles of Success

As a graduate student at CGU, you have the opportunity to engage in learning and professional development. Taking advantage of all CGU has to offer will enhance your learning experience and help you prepare for success in school and beyond.

Here are some principles for journeying successfully through graduate school and getting the most out of your CGU experience.

Your Turn

As you read, think, and work through this ASK Binder, come back to this page to write ideas that will help you practice these principles for success. ▼

Explore

Be curious and open to new ideas and ways of thinking and working. Be open to differences; they point to innovation in thought and action. There is always something to learn.

Ask

Be proactive. The only bad question is the one you never ask. Stay informed and keep learning so that you can engage fully and strategically in your academic and professional development.

Connect

Build networks. Make friends. Academic, professional and personal networks give you a base of resources and support. Journeys are so much better for the companions you meet along the way.

Share

Share ideas. Collaboration enables you to stretch your capacities and achieve more. The more you share, the more you grow.

Adapt

Be flexible in thinking and responding to change. Learn to improvise so you can flourish. Every challenge is a potential opportunity for growth.

Your Vision of Success

Journeys begin with a destination in mind. We cannot chart pathways without a sense of where we are going. In this space, write or sketch what your goals are as you enter graduate life at CGU. What do you want to have achieved academically, professionally, and personally by the time you graduate? Who do you want to have become?

Success & Transdisciplinarity

Success Also Means Developing a Transdisciplinary Mind

Success today—at work and in life—demands more than disciplinary expertise. Transdisciplinarity is a way of seeing the world and finding intellectual connections in everything. It is an approach to collaboration across the campus as well as outside of it.

When questions increase in complexity, so too does the need for a transdisciplinary mindset that follows a particular problem instead of of following a convention. In this way, perspectives and methodologies are collectively integrated across disciplinary and cultural lines. As a student at CGU, you will join a network of scholars who embrace the complex and transcend disciplinary boundaries to collaboratively respond to the constantly evolving challenges of the world.
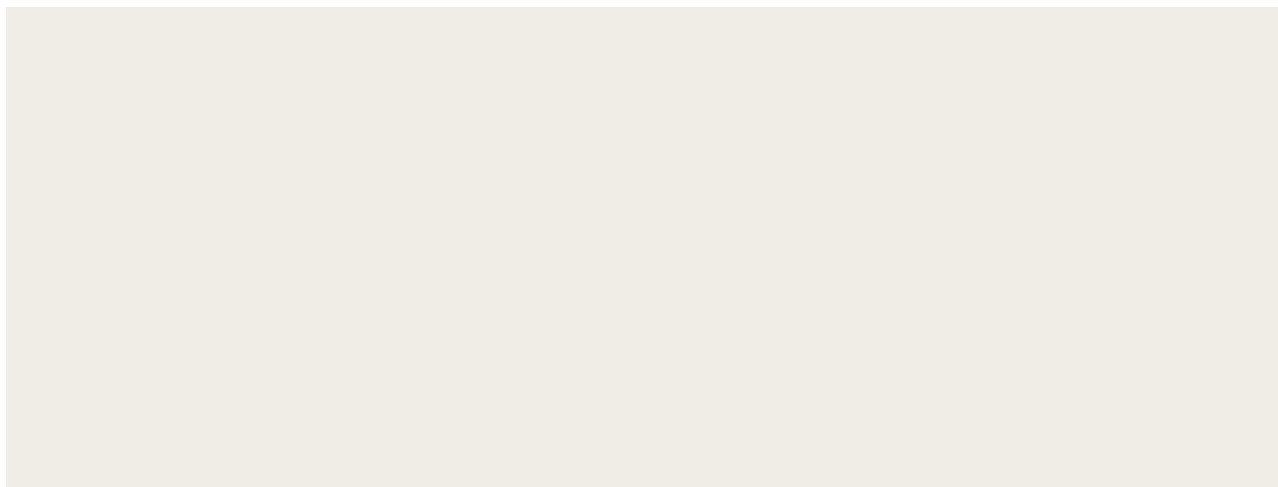
A key part of our mission at CGU is to help you develop transdisciplinary success capacities for the future so that you are able to:

- Embrace differences and the unknown
- Understand and appreciate multiple perspectives
- Adapt to new or changing circumstances
- Imagine new ways of thinking or doing things
- Collaborate and communicate across disciplines
- Reflect and negotiate through the collaborative process

Whether you are an artist, scientist, educator, or entrepreneur, developing these transdisciplinary skills and capacities will support your success at CGU and into your future.

How have your previous experiences laid the foundations for becoming a transdisciplinary thinker?

Consider an emerging future that is complex, rapidly changing, and unpredictable. Imagine living in the world 10 years from today, and consider again the description of transdisciplinary skills and capacities above. Which do you bring with you and which do you want to develop or develop further?

Find out about our Transdisciplinary Program and what you can do to develop your transdisciplinary capacities at mycampus.cgu.edu/web/transdisciplinary.

Exploring What "Journey" Means

Here are some quotes about journeys that can help you frame your approach in graduate school. Consider each one in terms of how it helps you think about your own journey for academic and professional success. Feel free to write notes in response, and add your own quotes to this page.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
  Lao Tzu

"The only journey is the one within."
  Rainer Maria Rilke

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."
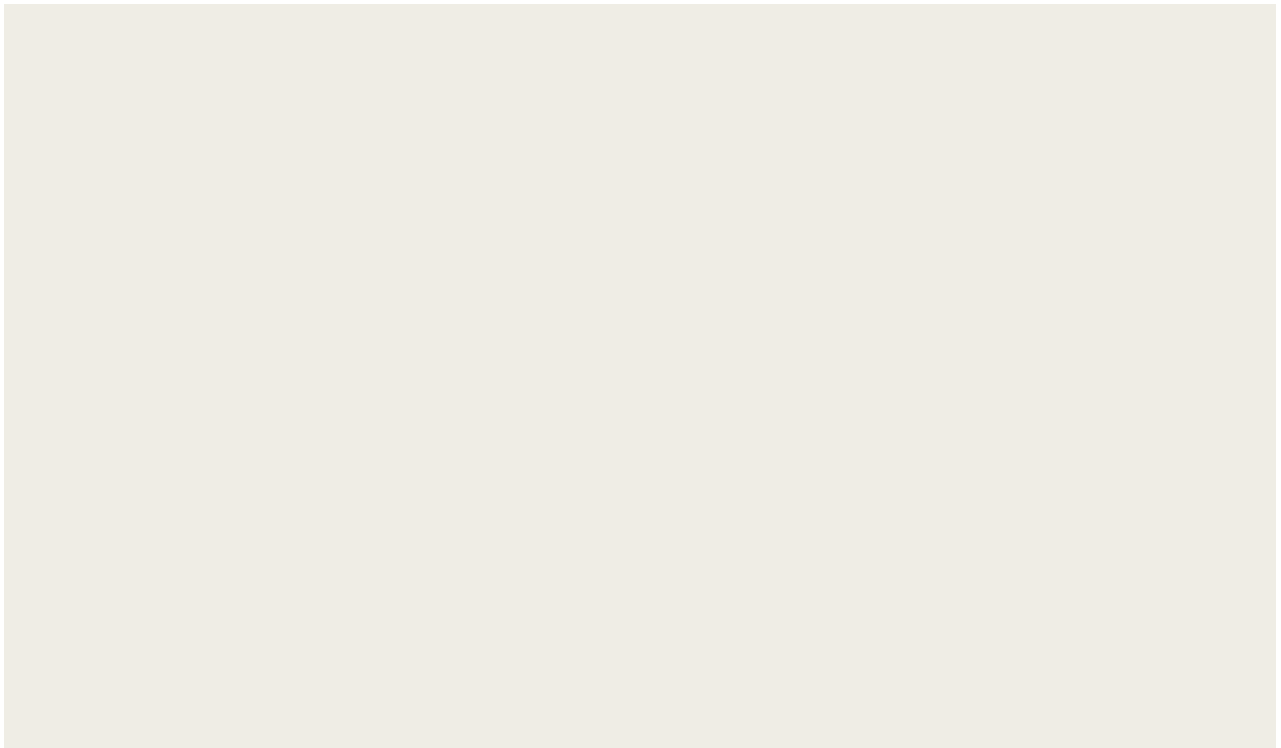 Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*

"The most important reason for going from one place to another is to see what's in between, and they took great pleasure in doing just that."
  Norman Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

"The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving."
  Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Your turn: Write a statement about life through graduate school as a journey.

Getting Connected
Making Sure You Have Access to Essential Technology

☐ **Get connected to CGU's wifi.** The network "eduroam" is the most secure way to access the internet wirelessly from your laptop and mobile devices. For step-by-step instructions to connect, visit cgu.edu/wireless.

☐ **Get your student ID at Honnold Mudd Library's Connection Center.** Your Student ID is your official student identification number. You use your ID card for library access online, to to borrow books, and to pay for printing at CGU computer labs (See Claremont Cash below). For hours and location of the Connection Center, visit cgu.edu/connection.

☐ **Understand Claremont Cash.** You can use Claremont Cash to pay for food and non-food items on campus, as well as at many local merchants. You need Claremont Cash to pay for printing at CGU's computer labs. You can deposit Claremont Cash into your Student ID card online, or with cash, check, or credit card at the Connection at Honnold Mudd Library. For more information, visit cgu.edu/claremontcash.

☐ **Log in to your CGU email.** Your CGU email is CGU's official mode of communication with you. You must check your CGU email frequently, as all important notifications and notices of useful events and resources will come through your CGU email. Learn great techniques for managing your email on the Office of Information Technology website at cgu.edu/email.

☐ **Explore MyCGU.** The MyCGU portal gives you single sign-on access to all the services and tools you need to navigate CGU and is accessible at mycampus.cgu.edu. The dashboard gives you access to Email, PeopleSoft (your student account where you can update your profile, enroll in classes, check your financial aid and invoices, and track academic progress), Canvas (the learning management system for access to course sites), Qualtrics (free survey design software) and Handshake (career events, employment, and campus work opportunities). MyCGU is also where you access Communities for all student services, school pages, and student clubs and associations. Make MyCGU your one-stop space from which you manage your progress at CGU. Keeping in touch with campus life, events, resources, and announcements will help you have a productive and successful time at CGU.

☐ **Download the MyCGU app on your smartphone.** Download the MyCGU app to your Android device at the Google Play Store or to your iPhone at the Apple App Store.

☐ **Learn to use Canvas.** Canvas is CGU's learning management system. You might be familiar with it or similar systems such as Blackboard or Moodle. CGU uses Canvas to manage courses, and you can access all your course sites through the Canvas icon in your student portal dashboard. If you need help learning to navigate a course site on Canvas, please work with your program coordinator or with the Digital Learning Lab by visiting cgu.edu/dll.

Check Your CGU Email!