**GOLDGraduate Opportunities for Learning & Development**

**HESA students are welcome to use** this tool throughout your time at WMU to help plan around 5 core dimensions of graduate student success. **In each category consider your strengths and potential roadblocks or challenges.**

[WMU Graduate College: GOLD](https://wmich.edu/grad/gold) (graduate opportunities for learning & development) Plan for Success

WMU HESA resources: [HESA current student resources](https://wmich.edu/leadership/academics/ed-leadership/master/hesa/current-students)

What do I expect my costs to be? How am I planning to pay for school? What funding sources are available for me as a graduate student? wmich.edu/finaid/costs

**FINANCIAL**

What academic strategies do I use to do well?

What is my anticipated timeline for completion? What academic & internships experiences do I want to have?

wmich.edu/academics

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**ACADEMIC**

How do I cope with stress? Where can I go when I’m not feeling at my best? wmich.edu/students/health

**WELLBEING**

What am I passionate about? What additional experiences & skills should I gain? How can I develop my ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency areas?

**CAREER**

**ENGAGEMENT**

How will I get involved outside of class? What student organizations interest me? How does WMU Signature fit it?

**HESA Student Orientation & Advising GOLD Plan for Success**

**How will graduate school be different than my undergraduate experience?**

* + What strengths and qualities do I bring to this graduate school endeavor?
  + What challenges do I think lie ahead?
  + What are some goals I have in each of these categories?

**ACADEMIC**

**In my courses:**

* + What is my plan for academic success?
  + What times do I best study?
  + Will you set up regular sessions at the writing center?
  + What about a small study group once a week with some classmates?
  + Can I arrange my work schedule to best support my study goals, etc?

**Working with my advisor**

* + Review the HESA website & HESA Handbook
  + Where will I keep all my advising materials?
  + When are advising sessions?
  + Have I written out questions I have for my advisor? Do I have all my paperwork with me ready to bring to each session?
  + Have I checked my registrations each semester?

**Planning my courses**

* Have I reviewed the course rotation offering?
* What is my anticipated timeline for completion?
  + Would I like to take one, two, three classes per semester?
* Have I accounted for Field Experience and capstone?
* What diversity cognates might interest me? (6 credits required)
* What about my focused elective? (3 credits required)

**WELL-BEING**

* What does wellness look like for me?
* How do my friends, family, partner, pet, loved ones fit into my graduate school life?
* What resources are available to me as a graduate student at WMU? (rec center, counseling, Sindecuse, workshops, student organizations, etc.?)

**FINANCIAL**

* What do I expect my costs to be?
* How am I planning to fund? Roadblocks or Opportunities?
* What funding resources are there for me as a HESA graduate student?

**CAREER**

* Work and GA experiences
* Professional Competency Areas
* WMU alumni (utilize the HESA Facebook group)
* Professional Association affiliations. Associations offer conferences, networks, resume critiques, mock interviews
* Field Experience & Capstone
* Volunteer experiences for additional professional development
* Career services at WMU

**ENGAGEMENT**

* What types of activities at WMU interest me? Student organizations?
* WMU Signature Pathways
* Community and/or spiritual engagement?

**As part of classes and the HESA program master’s student in HESA will complete:**

* An ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies Assessment
* Intercultural Development Inventory
* Both of these tools will give you an idea of areas in which you might like to focus your growth.
* You may also want to consider taking the Clifton Strengths Assessment