

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The IDP has been mandated for graduate students on fellowships, but it is also recommended for all graduate students in our program. The purpose of the IDP is to ensure that supervisors help their advisees develop their own trajectories through the PhD program rather than simply relying on Departmental, CLAS, and GC requirements to structure their studies.

Essentially, supervisors should meet with their advisees when they first arrive on campus and again at least once each year and ask about their professional goals:

1. All our PhD students come here to write first-rate dissertations. The five-year goal should be to get to that point. The longer, say ten-year goals are professional goals. Planning should keep both of those in mind.
 - a. The Department does not recognize a hierarchy of goals either within the academy or outside of it.
 - b. It is both normal and acceptable for these goals to change over time. For that reason, the annual or even biannual revisiting of the goals is imperative.
2. You may use the below or fashion your own version of the IDP. A written record should go into each student's file.

IDP:

- A. What are your career goals and what would you like to achieve in the next ten years?
- B. What do you need to do in the next ___ years to prepare you to write a great dissertation?
- C. What specific skill do you need and how will you attain them?
- D. What milestones must you meet? How will you reach them?
 1. Departmental requirements (e.g. designate your three fields; fashion your reading lists, your prospectus; schedule your comps; foreign language)?
 2. Research agenda (where, when, and how will you get to the sources)?
 3. Professional goals (meetings, travel, proposals, internships or other training)?