How to succeed in grad school

Or anywhere else
Surround yourself with good people

Find mentorship

Work smarter, not harder

You do you
Surround yourself with good people
And be good yourself

- Nurturing and productive advisor
- Cooperative, social group
- Communicate about needs/expectations
- “Some graduate students are assholes in training, and they learn to do it by watching professor assholes gain advantage over others” - Claire Potter
Find mentorship
Of several kinds

- At least one faculty member aside from your advisor
- At least one student/postdoc who knows what’s going on
- Use the Grad Office (they don’t bite)
Work smarter, not harder

● “If I had six hours to chop down a tree, I’d spend the first four hours sharpening the axe.” -- Abraham Lincoln*

● Cultivate a minor. You can’t be efficient at one thing for 12 hours a day.

● Don’t spin your wheels longer than 30 min; ask for help

*probably not
You do you
Don’t take advice (too) seriously

Ignore the

- Productivity nuts
- Marathon workers
- Naysayers (esp. grumpy faculty)
- Field bashers
- Career-path bashers