

How to succeed in grad school

Or anywhere else



**You do
you**

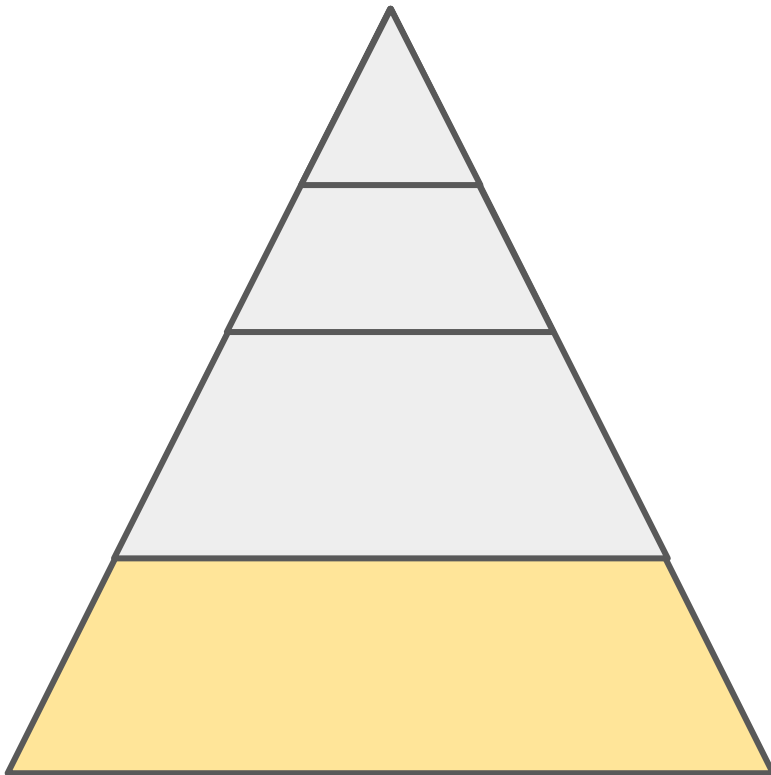
**Work smarter,
not harder**

Find mentorship

Surround yourself with good people

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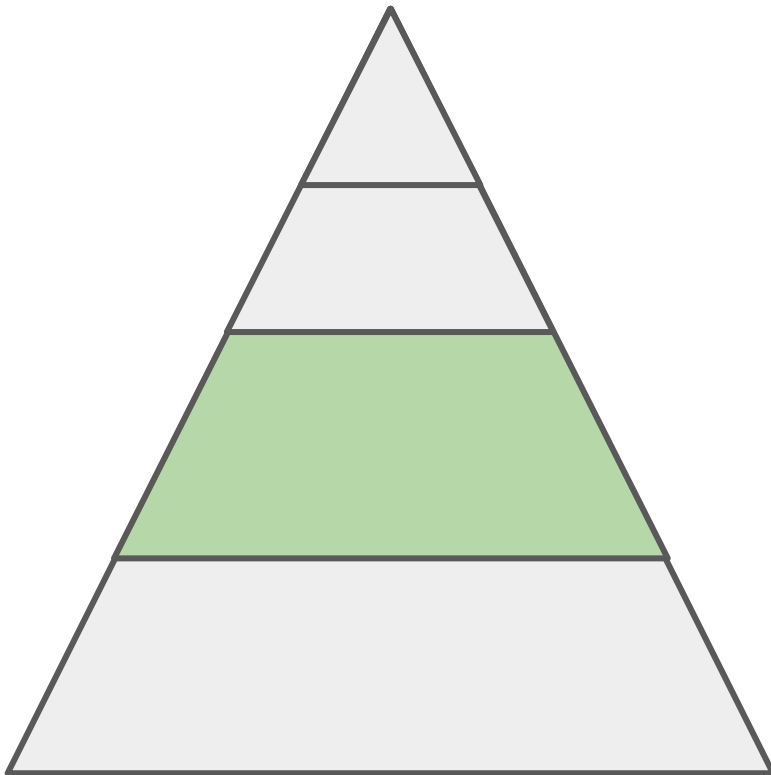
And be good yourself



- 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

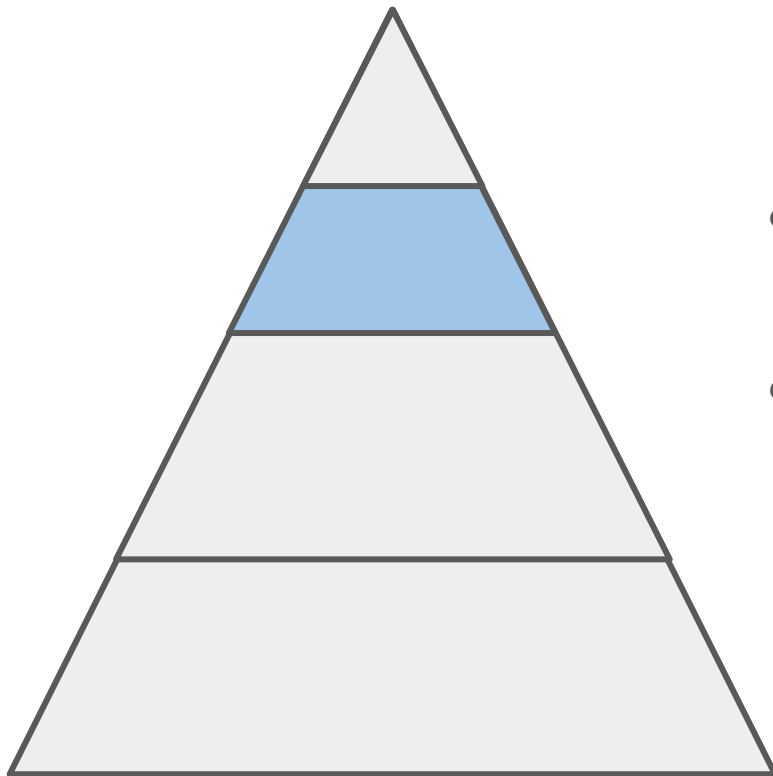
Find mentorship

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)

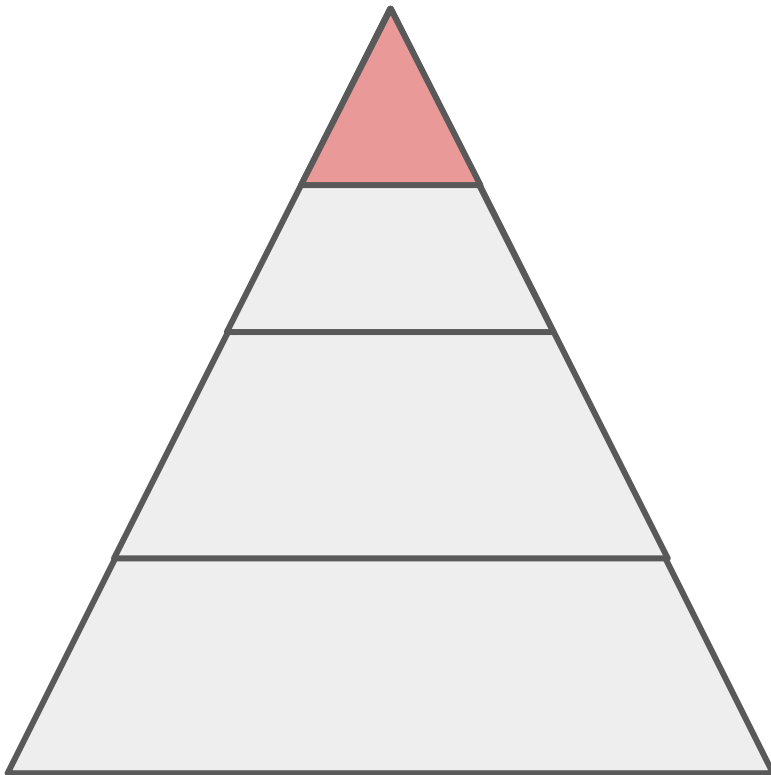
Work smarter, not harder



- “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

You do you

Don't take advice (too) seriously



Ignore the

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