Helpful hints and tips from second year graduate students!

♦ “Make as much progress as you can as soon as you can in your graduate career.”

♦ “Pinpoint bad time-consuming habits you have and end them ASAP.”

♦ “Mark due dates immediately in a planner or a calendar.”

♦ “Start thinking of class project/paper ideas immediately.”

♦ “Don't think about being productive in the future. Do it now! The sooner you get things done the more time you have for revisions and peer review. You will also feel a lot better!”

♦ “Make long term goals and short term goals and stick to them. Make sure your peers and professors hold you accountable for them.”

♦ “Know the difference in what you actually need to do and what you think you need to do.”

♦ “Make to-do lists and then do something fun as a “reward” for completing everything on the list.”

♦ “Review what you are covering the next class before you actually get to class. That way you are better prepared for class.”

♦ “When you set aside a certain amount of time to work on a task or project, devote your full attention to it. Don't take on unnecessary stress by constantly thinking about EVERYTHING you have to do.”
♦ “Make sure and seize all of the opportunities you have to present research and network. This is how your hard work will make a difference in the field and your experiences will speak to potential employers/doctoral programs.”

♦ “You can apply for ONE travel grant per calendar year through the College of Arts and Sciences. (You have to be presenting there to be awarded a travel grant → Make sure you save it for the most expensive conference).”

♦ “You need to fill out your degree plan before you can submit travel grant proposals.”

♦ “You are required to fill out a semester evaluation form EVERY semester so that you are on track with your thesis milestones.”

♦ “TALK to and COMMUNICATE with your advisors on a regular basis so that you are on the same page about your thesis.”

♦ “Pick a slot for your fun time so you do not blow off designated class work time slots.”

♦ “Make sure to compartmentalize your time or you will get overwhelmed. Be productive during designated work time and get rid of distractions. When you designate time to relax and have fun live it up and don't think about what you have to do for school.”

♦ “Don't buy a UNT parking pass because you can park on the street for free (no one told me this!)”

♦ “This isn't undergrad so don't count on having as much fun.”

♦ “Use 2nd year graduate students as resources and seek out help and advice when you need it. We've been where you are!”
“Make sure you become friends with the people in your program, because NO ONE else will understand what you are going through and you need someone to relate to.”

“Beware Fry Street is undergrad stomping grounds.”

“Learn how to prioritize your tasks and work during the week so that when Friday comes around you can make it to our happy hour at 4:30!”