

Advising Commitments

(Thanks to [Chara Podimata](#) for inspiration for this document)

This document is still under development. Please reach out if you have any questions, or look at the [Northwestern IEMS graduate handbook](#).

Students' Expectations of Me

Advising Philosophy. The goal of any PhD is for students to become independent researchers. This is accomplished in a couple of different ways:

- Ability to identify meaningful research questions
- Developing the tools and knowledge in order to address these questions
- Familiarity with the breadth of research topics studied in operations research
- Comfort in scientific communication and role in the academic community

I view my role as an advisor to help develop both technical expertise alongside soft skills through this lens. As an advisor, I value high-quality research more than the number of papers and want to ensure that each student has their own distinct project and focus. My hope is to work hands-on at the beginning in developing research questions with you. However, the sooner you take ownership of your own research agenda, the better it will be for your success in the PhD.

Commitment to Inclusion. My research group is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity. I welcome working with individuals of all genders, races, and sexual orientations. Since I am queer, feel free to reach out to discuss the interplay between these identities within academia. Check out the newly created [INFORMS Pride Forum](#)!

I hope to take intentional measures to ensure all students in my group feel safe and welcome. However, being inclusive is a constant learning process, and so any students should please give me feedback on how to be a more inclusive advisor.

Meetings. I will meet with my students weekly one-on-one. During these meetings, we can discuss research projects and career considerations. These career considerations can include:

- Fellowships and awards to apply to
- Vision for research
- Course planning
- Opportunities for engagement (both local community and within academia broadly)
- New collaborations to pursue

Outside of these meetings, you can usually find me on demand for quick questions on our lab slack channel or email.

Group Meetings. Upon reaching a critical mass of students within the group (or potentially after finding another professor to host co-group meetings) I will expect students to attend (bi)-weekly group meetings. These meetings will be an opportunity to:

- Learn about projects that other students are working on, to develop ideas or potential collaborations
- Practice presenting technical materials within a safe environment
- Team building and creating a culture within the group

Personal Schedule. My typical schedule is 730AM - 500PM. I will extend past these hours when in deadline mode. While these are *my* typical working hours, these are not my expectations for *your* typical working hours. I recognize that different people have different hours when they work best, and please let me know if you have a preferred meeting time.

Internships and Career Aspects. TBD

Vacations. While the graduate school at Northwestern does not have any formal vacation policy, I encourage students to take at least 3 weeks of vacation per year. This means time away from research and responding to emails. Please let me know a month in advance so that we can coordinate and modify our meeting schedules and set expectations with its interplay with paper deadlines.

Receiving Feedback. In my research group, we will check in every year through the [Graduate Student Tracking System](#) developed at Northwestern. This is an opportunity for us both to exchange feedback, especially getting feedback from my students on what works and doesn't work in my advising style. My students can also expect to receive feedback from me on a regular basis, including:

- Feedback and advice regarding which classes to take, giving talks, and engagement within the academic community
- Going through drafts of papers and explaining how the high-level writing and technical parts need to be adjusted. Before making changes, we will have a short discussion on what your preferred method of feedback is.

Expectations for My Students

Academic Community. I value creating an academic and departmental community, especially since it helps students develop the nontechnical skills necessary for success in a PhD program. I will strongly encourage all of my students to attend a weekly seminar series (whether that be the one hosted within the [IEMS department](#) or a potentially more relevant one). I will also encourage my students to participate in departmental roles, including the [Northwestern INFORMS student chapter](#).

Submission Deadlines. I will often suggest conference venues to submit our work for publication (e.g. NeurIPS, ICML, SIGMETRICS). My students are free to push back and suggest different venues and deadlines (especially due to the nature of these conferences requiring quick turn-around to prepare research for submission). My expectation is that if we both agree to plan on submitting to a given venue and deadline, we both will work together to make it happen.