Responsibilities of the MSD Student

MSD students are responsible for working towards completion of their degree programs in a timely manner. In addition to gaining expertise in a particular field of study, you are expected to expand the knowledge of the field by discovering and pursuing a unique topic of scholarly research, resulting in your MSD thesis.

It is your responsibility to ensure continued progress of your academic program and dissertation research.

MSD students are expected to:

- Work effectively towards completion of the degree in a timely manner
- Register for the correct classes every semester and complete the google confirmation form
- Monitor progress towards degree in Degreeworks; Make this a Habit!
- Be aware of and adhere to the dates specified in the university's academic calendar and adhere to degree candidacy and graduation dates
- Complete all required forms prior to the due date
- Respond in a timely fashion to email from sodgradstudy@vcu.edu, lysekk@vcu.edu and oloughran@vcu.edu
- Maintain a current dental license, updated annually if required
- Engage in self-directed learning to understand the existing theories, practices and research methods of your research area and apply these to your research
- Communicate regularly with your thesis advisor and your research advisory committee, providing these faculty with updates on your progress within the program and updates on results of research activities
- Make yourselves aware of the regulatory, academic and research requirements to be successful within the program
- Maintain detailed, organized and accurate research notebooks and records; When you leave all research data remain the property of the department
- Assume the highest integrity and maintain ethical standards in all aspects of your work, especially in the tasks of collecting, analyzing, and presenting research data
- Contribute, wherever possible, to the scholarly discourse of the discipline through presentations and publications and present at the VCU SoD annual research day
- Create an ethos of collegiality and collaboration