

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
CSA Shark Mentorship Guide

The Full-Time Graduate Program Timeline

JULY

Major Events:

- Start of Graduate Assistant Contract
- GA Orientation: Required for all first year and second year GA's, Monday, July 24
- Second Years: Secure practicum for Fall

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "What do you like about NSU so far? What are some of your goals?"

Work-Life Balance: "Have you created a schedule? Time-management system?"

Professional Development: "Is there anything about NSU or offices I can show you/teach you?"

1st Generation: "Are your finances, assignments, job expectations in order?"

2nd Year Students: "What will you do differently this year that will help you, your department, and NSU grow?"

AUGUST

Major Events:

- Courses begin:
First Year Class Options: 21st Century College Student, Administration in College Student Affairs Work, Human Factors
Second Year Class Options: Practicum I or II, Mediation Theory and Practice, Applied Research and Assessment in Student Affairs I
- CSA Program Orientation
- CHASS Orientation
- Major Events GA's help with or lead: Week of Welcome including Sharkapalooza, many volunteers needed throughout the week

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "How is the cohort? Have you found people who support you here?"

Work-Life Balance: "What are you doing for YOURSELF? What do you do for 'me time?'"

Professional Development: "Do you plan to go to NASPA-FL? Case Study competition? Present?"

1st Generation: "How have you been adjusting to your new classes/work/new schedule?"

2nd Year Students: "What do you think are your passions and goals as a professional?"

SEPTEMBER

Major Events:

- Major events GA's help with or lead: Sorority and Fraternity Recruitment, Career Fair
- Second Years: Residential Institute

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "What can NSU do to make this experience feel like home to you?"

Work-Life Balance: "Are you keeping up with your assignments? What has been motivating you?"

Professional Development: "Do you want any tips for NASPA-FL? Networking advice?"

1st Generation: "What have you gotten yourself involved with so far?"

2nd Year Students: "How do you plan to set yourself up for the job search this year?"

OCTOBER

Major Events:

- Mid-semester lull
- Major assignments due around this time

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: “How are you going to prepare for next semester?”

Work-Life Balance: “Is anything getting in the way of your academic success at NSU?”

Professional Development: “Would you like to reflect on NASPA-FL? Reflect on grad school so far?”

1st Generation: “Have you felt emotionally supported and academically supported?”

2nd Year Students: “What skills and experiences are you still looking to obtain?”

NOVEMBER

Major Events:

- Major events GA's help with or lead: Homecoming
- All week long, many volunteers needed throughout the week
- Classes End

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: What are your plans for winter break?

Work-Life Balance: “How have you been balancing saying ‘yes’ and ‘no’ to so many opportunities?”

Professional Development: “What legacy do you want to leave here at NSU?”

1st Generation: “Are you starting to think about your final projects and responsibilities of the semester?”

2nd Year Students: “Have you thought about your professional brand?”
“How do you want to be seen in the field?”

DECEMBER

Major Events:

- Final papers are due
- First years: Begin Practicum I search/Preparing resume for summer
- Second years: Secure Practicum II for Winter if not yet completed

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: “How connected do you feel to your graduate experience?”

Work-Life Balance: “What do you plan to do more of next year to feel stress-free?”

Professional Development: “What do you think could be improved about this mentorship program?”

1st Generation: “Do you feel properly informed on how to go about your practicum experience?”

2nd Year Students: “What are your goals for your last semester as NSU?”

JANUARY

Major Events:

- Courses Begin:
First Year Class Options: Student and Adult Development in College (Theory), Research Design and Program Evaluation, Current Issues and Trends in Higher Education
Second Year Class Options: Applied Research and Assessment in Student Affairs I, Practicum II or Facilitation, College Student Affairs and the Greater University
- Major events GA's help with or lead
- Winter Week of Welcome, Shark Preview, Leadership Conference
- First years: Begin practicum search
- Many apply for NODA, ACUHO-I, NACA positions—Due in January

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: “Who do you want to learn more about/connect with that you haven't yet.”

Work-Life Balance: “How do you feel about your courses this semester? What seems the most difficult?”

Professional Development: “What are your goals for the rest of this academic year?”

1st Generation: “Are your finances in order for this semester? How do you plan to keep organized?”

2nd Year Students: “What does your job search process look like this semester?”

FEBRUARY

Major Events:

- Major events GA's help with or lead: CommunityFest, Shark Preview
- GA Weekend
- First years: Practicum search: find out if interviewing for NODA, ACUHO-I, NACA
- Second years: Residential Institute

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: “What events have you volunteered for? How can you become more involved?”

Work-Life Balance: “How is your life outside of the graduate program?”

Professional Development: “Do you want tips for the upcoming major conferences?”

1st Generation: “What have become your ‘places and spaces’ around campus/community?”

2nd Year Students: “What is your strategy for networking (with a job in mind) at conferences?”

MARCH

Major Events:

- Major events GA's help with or lead
- NSU's Got Talent (could happen in April), Shark Jams, Shark Preview, Career Fair, NASPA and ACPA Annual Conference
- Spring Break

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: “How do you plan to engage with all of the major events this month?”

Work-Life Balance: “With a busy month, let's talk about how to stay energized” Introvert vs extrovert?

Professional Development: “Is your resume up to date? Have you done mock interviews?”

1st Generation: “Do you know what you want to do with your degree? What job outlooks are of interest?”

2nd Year Students: “Have you recently gotten your resume critiqued by Career Development?”

APRIL

Major Events:

- Major events GA's help with or lead:
Leadership Awards, STUEYS, NSU's got talent, Shark Preview, FinFest
- First years: Securing practicum sites for summer
- Second years: Job search
- Classes end/final papers are due

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "How do you feel knowing an entire year has almost gone by?"

Work-Life Balance: "Are you getting enough sleep? Are you still making time for yourself?"

Professional Development: "Where can I best support you on your job search?"

1st Generation: "Have you reached out for help to complete your summer plans?"

2nd Year Students: "Are you prepared for graduation?"

MAY

Major Events:

- First years: Most are pursuing practicum opportunities away from NSU, some remain local and keep working at their GA position
- Class Options: Law, Organizational Conflict, Practicum I or Facilitation
- Students who are away take their classes online
- Second years: Comprehensive Exam

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "Do you feel this year has panned out the way you expected it to?"

Work-Life Balance: "How are you going to readjust your time for the summer months?"

Professional Development: "Book recommendations?" First year: Supportive books. Second year: New professional books

1st Generation: "Are you prepared for financial changes over the summer?"

2nd Year Students: "What is your biggest worry stepping out of graduate school and into a new space?"

JUNE

Major Events:

- First years: Most are pursuing practicum opportunities away from NSU, some remain local and keep working at their GA position
- Class options: Law, Organizational Conflict, Practicum or Facilitation
- Students who are away take their classes online
- Second years: Graduation

Questions To Consider:

Acculturation/Adjustment: "What new opportunities do you want to explore next year?"

Work-Life Balance: "What do you think you can do better next year for your success?"

Professional Development: "What are some of your goals for next year?"

1st Generation: "Do you feel prepared for the upcoming year?"

2nd Year Students: "What was your biggest takeaway from NSU? Let's reflect on it."