Professors for the Future is a year-long competitive fellowship program offered by Graduate Studies and designed to recognize and develop the leadership skills of outstanding doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars.

- PFTF fellows work on projects of their own design to enhance the graduate or postdoctoral experience and professional development of their colleagues. The projects are presented at an end-of-year colloquium.
- All fellows receive formal training in teaching methods and course design through either the Seminar on College Teaching or self-selected workshops provided by the Center for Educational Effectiveness.
- PFTF fellows participate in a seminar course titled “Ethics and Professionalism in the University.”
- Fellows meet regularly for discussions and workshops to promote the participants’ professional development, intellectual growth and leadership skills.
- gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/pftf

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Additional Professional Development Opportunity
Success and Socialization in Your Program

Success in graduate school is not measured by grades alone. It requires that you take a proactive role in your education. To help ensure success, Graduate Studies, your graduate program, and your faculty mentors work together to provide orientations, personalized mentoring and advising, and classes, workshops and symposia focused on program milestones.

Writing and Publishing

Developing your writing skills is key to success. Some graduate students and postdoctoral scholars struggle to master the demands of writing and publishing. The dissertation or thesis is a project unlike any other, and few students know how to conceptualize and organize large-scale writing projects. GradPathways provides writing and publishing training in partnership with the University Writing Program.

Presentation Skills

We require presentation and public speaking skills of all our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. GradPathways and other on- and off-campus units provide a host of activities and classes to help build these skills. For English language learners, additional resources are available to help address the challenges of communicating in a non-native language.

Teaching and Mentoring

Most graduate students serve as teaching assistants during their graduate school experience. GradPathways partners with the Center for Educational Effectiveness to provide teacher training. Recognizing that mentoring is also an essential skill, GradPathways offers engaging mentoring workshops for both mentees who would like to get the most out of mentorship and those who wish to learn how to mentor.

Leadership and Management

Leadership and management skills are often overlooked in academic training, even at the faculty level. Learning to manage research budgets, personnel and projects is an important skill to master. GradPathways offers workshops and panel discussions featuring faculty and industry experts on these topics, often in collaboration with the Graduate School of Management and the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Scholarly Integrity and Professionalism

Acquiring a solid foundation in scholarly integrity and developing as a professional in your field are among the many goals of graduate education. We provide much of this training through faculty mentorship and guidance. Additional opportunities are available through professional societies and opportunities such as the Responsible Conduct of Research series. The Professors for the Future program and other GradPathways events sponsor this annual ethics and professionalism seminar.

Career Exploration, Job Searching and Networking

A graduate education prepares scholars for a broad range of career opportunities in academia, industry, government and nonprofit agencies. GradPathways, the Internship and Career Center and Counseling Services provide workshops, symposia, career exploration groups, one-on-one advising and other resources to further career exploration, networking and finding exciting career opportunities.

Wellness and Life Balance

To be successful in graduate school or postdoctoral training, it is important to maintain a balance between educational pursuits and wellness. GradPathways partners with Student Health and Counseling Services to provide counseling for students and workshops on topics such as stress reduction, physical activity and time management.