There are several points that were made in previous years, that you will find to ring true, among which are: choose your advisor carefully and make sure that your working styles and requirements are compatible, triple the time that you think you’ll need when planning on doing work, identify and make the most of a support network (which should not be hard to find in EPS). As well as these, I would recommend that you set yourself up to minimize future issues through planning and organization - learn how to use Adobe Illustrator and come up with a system for file management (you will make an insane number of figures and documents and you’ll need to keep track of those). Lastly, I would say one of the most valuable parts of this whole process is that you inevitably integrate yourself further into the department because of the time you’re going to be spending in EPS. Get to know the graduate students and people in the department, make the most of the tiny bits of advice and words of encouragement that you’ll get from the people around you and don’t forget that there are so many people who are rooting for you throughout.

Hannah Byrne '18
EPS

Work in both the time and space that make you feel the most at ease. If that means you’re working at a different time of day from everyone else, or you’re setting up shop on a 4th floor Hoffman couch instead of the thesis office, that’s okay! Do what works for you.

Katie Polik '18
EPS

1. Create your own timeline because your research is unique. 2. (For most) Make your figures and then write about them. 3. The sooner you get used to writing something for the sake of redoing it, the better... the sooner you get over your perfectionism, the better :)

Sam LoBianco '18
EPS

Talk to your advisor early on about what kind of results you expect to get. Related to that, maybe make a list of all the figures you think you’ll need to convey your results. That’ll make it much easier to organize your writing later. Use all the human resources available to you - advisors, grad students, preceptors, other thesis writers - not only will they be very helpful in a practical sense, working with other people in this way will make you part of the academic community in a way that classes don’t. Use the thesis to test out if a career in academic research is something you’re really interested in.

Barra Peak '18
EPS

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