

Tips and Strategies to Get Started in the PhD

- Look ahead, follow the course outlines – allows for anticipation of current and upcoming assignments; check assignment directions and grading rubrics
- Follow the Course Calendar tool in BlackBoard
- Stay organized, use time wisely/designate block off time for coursework
- Read early and often
- Connect with other classmates, reading discussion board posts, and through Adobe Connect
- Ask questions, as needed and review the Help section in BlackBoard
- Review your syllabus, book and assignment list at least a week prior to first face to face meeting
- Learn a reference management system
- Apply what you know and have experienced to the readings
- Share what you learn with others in (and outside) your profession
- Keep your mind open and motivation high

Resources from the Program:

- Keeping assignments deadlines consistent when possible
- Make resources easily accessible through NIU library, Writing Center, BlackBoard Help, and on the PhD Community in BlackBoard
- Share student and faculty background information
- Provide materials at least 1 week prior to the start of the semester for core classes
- Provide details in each module outline and keep articles available through eReserves

From the fall 2015 cohort