

GPS

GRADUATE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR GPS!



GETTING TO THE FINISH LINE
NAVIGATING DOCTORAL CANDIDACY

WEDNESDAY · JANUARY 28, 2026 · REITZ UNION RION BALLROOM

CONGRATULATIONS — AND WELCOME!

Achieving doctoral candidacy spotlights your prowess, passion, and persistence in pursuing your field of study. And at this momentous milestone in your academic journey, **Graduate Pathways to Success (GPS)** is here to help you stay the course and keep up your momentum. Its bevy of tools, tips, and practical wisdom will drive you forward to the finish line of a completed dissertation and timely graduation.

SOME BIG NEWS...

NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) — a professional association of student affairs administrators in higher education — named GPS a 2026 Silver Award Winner in its academic advising and professional development category. Congratulations to Assistant Director Kimone Simmons and team for earning GPS and UF this national limelight!

GPS KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. ANTONIO FACIOLA



This year's GPS keynote speaker and featured mentor is **Dr. Antonio Faciola** — Associate Professor of Ruminant Nutrition, Graduate Program Coordinator, and Undergraduate Honors Coordinator in the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Animal Sciences Department. His keynote address will share his take on the interplay between mentoring and successful dissertation completion for doctoral students.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Check-In

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks
Dr. Nicole Stedman, Associate Provost and Dean, UF Graduate School

9:10 a.m. Keynote Address
Finishing Strong: Resilience, Persistence, and the Doctoral Journey
Dr. Antonio Faciola will share motivating insights on building resilience, sustaining momentum, and leaning on supportive relationships as you approach the finish line of your doctoral journey.



9:30 a.m. Time and Project Management Strategies

10:00 a.m. How to Use the Dissertation Template (featuring UF Graduate School editors and UFIT Help Desk personnel)

10:30 a.m. Break

10:40 a.m. Breakout Sessions:

- 1 Beyond the Doctorate: Mapping Transferable Skills for Career Readiness (Rion Ballroom East)
- 2 Global Scholars in Transition: Preparing for Candidacy, Careers, and Next Steps (Room 3320)

11:15 a.m. Break

11:20 a.m. Breakout Sessions:

- 1 Between Guidance and Growth: Peer Perspectives on the Mentor-Mentee Journey (Room 3320)
- 2 Research Ready: Leveraging Libraries and Data Management of Doctoral Success (Rion Ballroom East)

11:55 a.m. Break

12:00 noon Free Lunch and Faculty and Postdoc Panel Discussion with...

- **Dr. Jack Cousseaux** (Experiential Learning Executive Director, Warrington College of Business)
- **Dr. Swapna Kumar** (Educational Technology Clinical Professor, UF College of Education)
- **Dr. Nancy Padilla-Coreano** (Neuroscience Assistant Professor, UF McKnight Brain Institute)
- **Dr. Adrian Roitberg** (Frank E. Harris Professor, UF Department of Chemistry)
- **Dr. Emily Setton** (NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, UF IFAS Whitney Lab)

2:00 p.m. Regrouping and Prizes

2:15 p.m. Networking and Resource Fair featuring...

- **UF Dissertation Team**
- **UF GatorWell Health Promotion Services**

- **UF Libraries Academic Research Consulting & Services (ARCS)**
- **UF Career Connections Center (C3)**
- **UF Graduate Student Council**
- **UF Student Government**

3:00 p.m. Writing Workshop in Reitz Union Auditorium

Finding Your Lane:

Developing a Confident, Authentic Research Voice



In this workshop that covers scholarly voices, AI use, and writing strategies, author, editor, and writing coach **Dr. Vernetta Mosley** — founder of **Cultivate the Writer** (www.cultivatethewriter.com) — will help you find and keep your own dissertational voice amid a multitude of published works and established experts.

WITH GATOR GRATITUDE...

GPS is the result of many people coming together and working together. Special thanks to our keynote speaker, panelists, and writing workshop facilitator; Palm & Pine Catering; UF Career Connections Center (C3); UF Event Services; UF GatorWell Health Promotion Services; UF Graduate School Thesis, Dissertation, and Publishing; UF Graduate Student Council; UF Libraries Academic Research Consulting & Services (ARCS); UF Writing Studio; and the helping hands on Team Grad School who helped pull everything together. Your collaboration has made GPS the nationally recognized event that it is today!

