

# HOW TO GET A PHD

How to Set Yourself Up for Success in the First  
12 Months



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**NOTE: This is only the sample version.**

# Preface

So, you're either thinking about doing a PhD, or you made into your PhD program (if it's the latter, then congratulations! That's a big achievement already).

Either way, there are some things you need to know before you start. Some vital pieces of information that you won't find readily. The simple reason for that is because your universities and/or academics don't want you to know.

I'll let you in on a little secret – a fact that isn't too widely published.

Do you know that 85% of people who start their PhDs never finish?

That number goes for national and international rate.

15% pass rate!!! That's horrendous!

That means that 5-in-6 students will not get their PhDs.

The next time you're around 5 of your PhD students friends, look at them – know that five of you aren't going to make it, only one will. I wonder which five of you won't get PhDs.

That's heartbreaking considering how hard PhD students work, the conditions that they have to put up with, and the sacrifices they have to make.

**This book is about how to setup your PhD in the first 12 months to ensure success.** To turn those truly horrible stats around.

If you're happy to run the gauntlet alone, then by all means, stop reading. If you're staggered by those numbers (as I am), then you need to read on.

Let's begin.

# The PhD Process

**NOTE: The following pages (7-12) have been omitted in this SAMPLE version.**

So, you can see how straight forward the PhD process is, there's no magic, no mystery, it's very straight forward, and yet, up to 85% of you will not pass!

That's where this book is designed to kick that number to the curb, and make sure that you're setup for success.

We've already covered the well-known stuff, like "the question" and "planning", etc., but there are more items to cover – items that 99.9999% of students don't know about. These items are the ones that determine whether you get your PhD or not.

But before we go on further, let's dig into the statistics a little more and get an idea of how devious they are, and make no mistake, they are very devious.

# PhD Failure Rates

**NOTE: The following pages (14-19) have been omitted in this SAMPLE version.**

I knew this one woman doing her PhD, she wanted to defend – she had done everything necessary, by the book, ticked off all the requirements as per the University’s rules, except that her advisors didn’t approve. They said that “she’d probably fail.” Instead, she should continue her research and wait a little longer. This woman was in an unfortunate position, but far better than most PhD students – her University was actually okay with a student defending against their advisors’ wishes (that’s far more than 99% of all PhD students get, including myself). So, she decided to boycott her advisors and go ahead with her defense. Do you know what the result was? She passed with flying colors, no corrections, no problems, the best possible outcome. Very few PhD students ever get that grade. And yet, her advisors (in their infinite wisdom) said that she would fail. Why is that I wonder?

The reason is because her advisors were getting research out of her. The longer she stuck around, the more

research they'd get. So, it was in **their** best interests to keep her there. While a student getting their PhD is good publicity for the University, they'd far prefer the research. When the student finally gives up, realizing that they'll never be able to defend, they become part of the "85%" who "didn't pass". I know many students who succumbed to this tragedy.

It's not because they're slackers, it's not because they didn't have what it took to get their PhDs, it's not because they didn't have the brains, **it's because they simply weren't allowed to get their PhDs**. There are no good reasons, only that their advisors (and Universities) were greedy. They wanted more research! More, more, more!

Now, the Universities are okay with that stat because of how they present them. By presenting the stat as people who "didn't pass", or those who simply "dropped out", they take all the onus off of the Universities and advisors, and place it on the students – "they didn't have what it takes." At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what it takes to get a PhD, those students were never going to get there simply because the people between them and their PhDs were not going to allow it – I was in that same



boat, but as I've said before, I had a few tricks up my sleeve 😊 .

You might be wondering how the Universities can still tolerate such a horrendous stat, even if you factor in the effects of their devious words at nullifying much of the negativity of the stat.

A final reason is because having such a high failure rate (and it really is a failure rate, it's not a "didn't pass" rate, because these people were never afforded the opportunity to defend in the first place. They were dragged through the mud. So, in essence, the stat **is** the failure rate, nothing else) makes the degree all the more prestigious.

The harder it is to get, the higher esteemed the degree becomes – that's good publicity for the Universities. So, they manage the negative aspects of the stat (blame the PhD students), while reaping the benefits of that same stat – it truly is an elegant model...horrific, but elegant.

But, just because you're a slave, doesn't mean that you're powerless. That's where I come in.

That's the art of politics – being able to create power from seemingly nothing.

**From herein, we get into how to overcome these problems. I give you ways to gain power and set yourself up for success within the first 12 months.**

**NOTE: The following pages (25-29) have been omitted in this SAMPLE version.**

# How To Pick Your Advisors and Your University

While many advisors and Universities prey on PhD students, others don't.

To increase your chances of getting a PhD, you need to choose your advisors and University wisely.

Spend time doing so. You're going to spend the next 4 or 5 years there, and it's the place you go to get your PhD (your most important qualification). Choosing poorly greatly determines whether you get your PhD or not (if you end up choosing poorly, then you can still get your PhD – I did – but it will take more work).

Let's go through how to pick your advisors and University well.

**NOTE: The following pages (30-50) have been omitted in this SAMPLE version.**

# How To Stop Your Advisors Trying To Take Advantage of You

For many advisors, it's very tempting to take advantage of their students.

I once heard one advisor say that his PhD students were his army. I swear that I heard one say that. Many think the same way!

But there are ways to heavily discourage your advisors (and University) from trying to take advantage of you.

In your first 12 months, there are 5 things you need to do. (When you progress through the years, there are other things you need to do, but first thing's first! Let's focus on these first 12 months!)

**NOTE: The following pages (51-79) have been omitted in this SAMPLE version.**