The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Graduate Students

**Habit 1: Be Proactive**
You've done that already! You applied to the program and you were accepted. It doesn’t stop there, though. You have to continue to be proactive in meeting with your advisor, making adjustments in your life, and taking full advantage of your learning opportunities.

**Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind**
Sit down with your advisor--if you haven’t already done so--and plan out your entire program. Think about where you want to be when you graduate. What needs to happen between now and then to attain your goals? Work backwards so you fill in all the action steps in your master plan.

**Habit 3: Put First Things First**
Time management is such an important part of graduate school. Know your priorities. Put your energy in your “circles of influence”--where you know your time is well spent on things that matter. Also, check on those dates when things are due!

**Habit 4: Think Win/Win**
You’ve probably noticed that cooperation is valued over competition in HRD programs. Invest in thinking about how you can learn from or contribute to the learning of others in your classes. The “abundance mentality” encourages us to appreciate the contributions of others.

**Habit 5: Seek First to Understand; Then to be Understood**
Our programs in Adult Education, Counseling, and School Psychology are models of this habit. We put tremendous time and energy into truly understanding the lives of our clients/clientele. Our programs are unique in the way they promote Habit 5.

**Habit 6: Synergize**
“Valuing the differences is the essence of synergy--the mental, the emotional, the psychological differences between people.” The collective whole of the HRD community is greater than the sum of its parts. Great students, great support staff, and great faculty make for a REALLY great department.

**Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw**
Your graduate program can provide a wonderful foundation for lifelong learning. Physical, spiritual, and mental renewal needs to be a conscious process of learning, committing to, and following-up on the things we know are good for us.