

Selection of a Thesis Project

When?

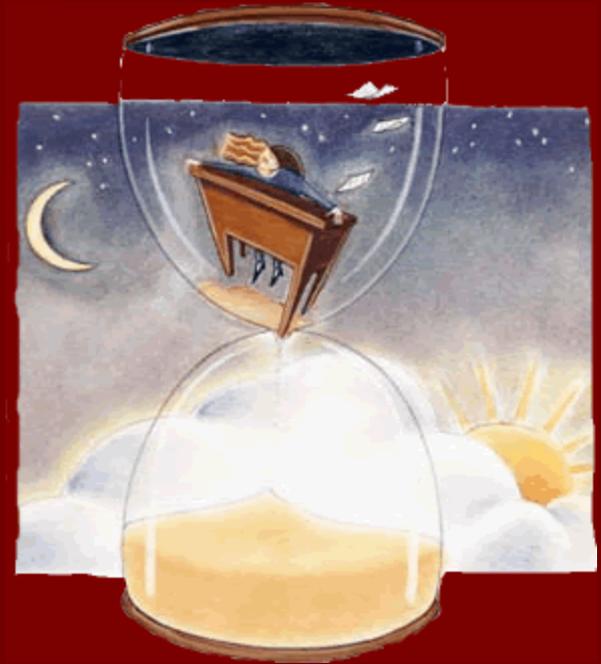
How?

Why?



When ?

- ideally, before applying for graduate school admission
 - assess undergraduate courses and experiences
 - be completely honest with yourself
- during the graduate school application/selection process
 - identify programs of interest
 - identify faculty as potential major professors
- as a new graduate student
 - join the family---and the community



When ?

- ideally, before applying for graduate school admission
 - assess undergraduate courses and experiences
 - be completely honest with yourself
- during the graduate school application/selection process
 - identify programs of interest
 - identify faculty as potential major professors
- as a new graduate student
 - join the family---and the community

How ?

- read, read, read
 - will subconsciously begin will to develop ideas
 - identifies prominent programs and faculty
 - contact and visit with faculty/potential major professors and students
 - select program/major professor*
 - expertise and experience
 - mentorship
- get involved
 - assist graduate students and faculty with research
 - attend seminars, meetings, conferences, FACs
- start a personal journal
- start a bibliography and file of papers read

Finding a major professor *

- IMO, singly most important step
- obvious requirements
 - area of interest in common
 - high-quality research/expertise
 - highly respected in the meat science community
- additional, no-less-important considerations
 - mentorship
 - professional and personal support
 - supervisory philosophy
 - availability
 - flexibility in project directions
 - typical time for degree completion
 - assistance with thesis

The final steps.....

- research must be original
 - assured by current awareness---reading, networking
 - major professor input
- project should address a real problem and be designed to produce useful results
- prepare a formal proposal
 - literature review
 - experimental design, analytical methods, statistical analysis
 - timeline

Why ?

- to make thesis writing an easy affair
- set the stage for a successful defense

Credits:

title page graphic by <http://www.archivephotos.com> via the website of
<http://www.veritnet.com/karen>

second page graphic by <http://www.gettyworks.com> via the website of
<http://www.dsv.su.se/~pajo/index.html>