Characteristics Associated with Success in Graduate School
(and Professional Life)

- Motivation / Drive / Ambition
- Willingness to work hard
- Intellectual curiosity / Love of learning / Genuine interest in discovery
- Ability to tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity
- Persistence / Ability to work through problems repeatedly (don't expect quick and easy answers)
- Flexibility
- Resilience
- Self-confidence
- Independence (ability to work without constant reassurance / hand-holding)
- Ability to delay gratification
- Ability to make on multiple tasks at one time / prioritize
- Time management/organizational skills
- Love of abstract reasoning
- Analytical/logical thinking
- Self-discipline
- Sense of humor
- Moderate risk-taking
- Openness to experience
- Creativity and self-investment in research ideas (instead of imitation of others' work)
- Oral and written communication skills
- Ability to sit for a long time and listen/think without talking (especially in clinical work) or the ability to work alone
- Enjoyment of academics (for graduate school success and success in academic jobs)