Graduate Student Commitment Checklist

Adapted from Rackham Graduate School, UMich

I acknowledge that I have the primary responsibility for the successful completion of my degree. I will

⇒ meet regularly with my advisor and provide my advisor updates on my progress in academic courses and research.
⇒ work with my advisor to develop a research plan that will form the basis of my thesis.
⇒ work with my advisor to select a graduate advisory committee and a complete GSP.
⇒ consult with my committee and set realistic goals and timelines that I will strive to follow.
⇒ hold annual committee meetings, and duly submit all paperwork required by the department, college and graduate school.
⇒ be knowledgeable of the department, college, and graduate school rules, regulations, policies, and deadlines as applicable to my studies and commit to meeting these requirements.
⇒ work with my advisor to secure supplemental funding to support my research.
⇒ participate in relevant group meetings, seminars, and trainings that are relevant to my educational program as determined in consensus with my advisor.
⇒ discuss my needs and plans for field work, industry training, etc (if applicable) with my advisor, will take required safety trainings, and will take all possible measures to responsibly and safely conduct my research.
⇒ collect data/samples relevant to my research and document/store these in an organized manner as appropriate. I understand that all tangible research data (eg. samples, my original notes, digital backups, etc.) are the property of my institution (unless agreed upon otherwise, eg. in classified research, some industry funded research etc.) but that I am able to take a copy of my notes with me after I complete my thesis.
⇒ ensure that I produce a professional thesis/dissertation written in proper scientific English, with high quality figures (if applicable), and proper citations conforming to departmental and graduate school guidelines.
⇒ discuss expectations for publishing, attendance in conferences, and authorships with my advisor and will work with my advisor to submit all relevant research results that are ready for publication in a timely manner.
⇒ discuss policies and expectations on work hours, sick leave and vacations, with my advisor and inform of my planned absences in advance.
⇒ be a good team player and contribute to making the work environment healthy, safe, supportive, and free of harassment.
⇒ seek guidance for my career path, but acknowledge that it is primarily my responsibility to develop my career following the completion of my graduate degree.