Preparing a Professional Development Plan (PDP)

A construction crew does not begin to build a new house without the architect’s blueprint. Though issues may arise during construction that requires changes to the blueprint, a blueprint serves as the necessary foundation for construction and helps the crew to visualize and track the impact of any changes.

Most business initiatives begin with some sort of plan, though type and quality vary. As a business professional, you may have heard of the value of strategic planning, and even been part of the strategic planning process. Yet, many begin a doctoral program without a clear vision of their goals or a plan for achieving them.

Articulating your goals, as well as developing a plan for how you will achieve them, will help ensure your success by keeping you focused on your goals when distractions arise and allowing you to track your progress. You will articulate your goals by completing a PDP. The PDP will serve as a living document, which you will continue to update throughout your program to reflect changes in your goals and plans. Having a plan in place will help you to visualize the impact of challenges and opportunities that arise so that you can make changes to both plans and goals to ensure your personal and professional satisfaction and success.

Develop a plan for reaching three professional goals you want to achieve during by completing the PDP Template. Plan should be 5 to 7 pages total. For each of the three goals you select, include a 2- to 3-paragraph goal narrative, a list of resources to help achieve your goal, and a timeline for completion.

Your **narrative** should include:

* A statement of your goal
* Your motivation for wanting to achieve the goal and an explanation of how it relates to your personal values
* A brief description of the steps you intend to take to accomplish your goal
* An explanation of how these steps reflect consideration of personal strengths and weaknesses relevant to the goal

**References** section should include three resources with a description of how each resource is relevant to your goal. Your resources must include:

* One reading (book, periodical, journal, etc.)
* One social media site that will contribute to the formation of your own personal learning network
* Another resource of your choice

**Timeline** should identify a minimum of three steps as milestones for accomplishing each goal, and it should assign an estimated time frame for completion.