

CareerWISE Frequently Asked Questions

What is *CareerWISE*?

CareerWISE is free, online, personal and professional coaching and support for women pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) doctoral degrees.

Why is it important that a resource like *CareerWISE* exists?

Women are making it through to PhD programs, but are not making it out. Attempts to improve the climate for women in doctoral programs are critical, but we also need to find a way to build resilient women right now rather than waiting for chilly climates to warm up. The *CareerWISE* resource provides the coaching and support to help women succeed in their current environments.

Why should users trust the *CareerWISE* resource?

The *CareerWISE* resource was created by an interdisciplinary team of experts from fields including counseling psychology, psychology, engineering, and educational technology with generous support from the National Science Foundation. The content is current, significant, and relevant; scholarly references are also provided for all content pieces. Additionally, the site's effectiveness was formally evaluated using a nationwide randomized clinical trial. Details of this study can be found at: <http://www.asu.edu/careerwise/researchbrief.pdf>

What topics are covered on the *CareerWISE* resource?

The site provides advice from accomplished women in science and engineering, information about common concerns women face in STEM fields, training to solve personal and interpersonal problems, modules to strengthen skills, and tips for addressing specific questions or concerns.

How much time does it take to use the *CareerWISE* resource?

The *CareerWISE* resource can be used for as little or as much time as a visitor would like. It is designed so that a visitor could browse the large variety of content or quickly find content related to a specific topic.

Why is *CareerWISE* designed specifically for women?

Since women are outnumbered in STEM doctoral programs, in addition to the usual stresses of graduate school, they frequently face additional challenges.

Why does *CareerWISE* focus on doctoral students rather than focusing on problems earlier in the STEM pipeline?

Doctoral students are women who have already decided on STEM as a primary area of interest and have been competitive in gaining admission to these programs, but still complete the programs at a lower rate than men. *CareerWISE* is geared toward and supports women who are tempted to leave programs and STEM careers because of discouraging experiences.

What's next for the *CareerWISE* resource?

The *CareerWISE* research program is currently working to broaden the resource's content to provide in-depth training on the specific topic of communication. The *CareerWISE* environment will also be expanded to include interactive simulations made up of multiple critical-incident scenarios.