

PhD Seminar

What is a PhD ?

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What's a PhD ??

A PhD degree means different things to different people

1. A terminal degree
2. A license to teach
3. A license to do research
4. Validation of intellectual ability
5. A research apprenticeship

What Do You Learn in a PhD Program ?

- How to think
- A lot of technical knowledge about some field (SWE)
- How to do research
 - Formulate and solve problems
 - Write and present results
- How to critique other's work
- How to handle stress management

How to teach yourself

Why Get a PhD ?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Higher salary | <i>Sorry ...</i> |
| • To teach | <i>Okay ...</i> |
| • To do research | <i>Okay ...</i> |
| • For Mom | <i>Won't work ...</i> |
| • To prove yourself | <i>Not worth it ...</i> |
| • To be a manager | <i>Not worth it ...</i> |
| • To avoid the real world | <i>Terrible reason ...</i> |

Because you love to learn ?

What Does it Take ?

- Intelligence
- Ability to communicate
- Perseverance (stubbornness?)
- Creativity
- Hard work
- Time management
- Ability to handle stress
- Luck

**This is the most competitive thing
most of you will ever do !**

Is it Worth it?

- I've known a lot of people who started and didn't finish
 - A few wish they hadn't started
- I don't know anybody who finished a PhD who wishes they hadn't
- An education is one thing that can never be taken away

I have the greatest job in the world