Organize a substantial new grad student orientation
- Schedule half to full day event during the week prior to the start of Fall classes
- Include presentation by DGS about milestones & expectations
- Distribute Checklist/ToDo list with dates, hard copy of Grad Student Handbook
- Include existing grad students in event
  - During presentation: Invite new students to join the grad stud org
  - After presentation: Take new students out for social event

Provide more than perfunctory ethics training
- Schedule more than one class session
- Include general issues and those specific to discipline (e.g. MCB’s semester course)

Establish a clear mechanism for grad student issues to be shared/aired
- Clearly identify an unbiased, accessible ombudsperson among faculty and specify mechanisms by which that person may be consulted
- Provide assurances of confidentiality and describe specific mechanism by which complaints will be handled/resolved
- Inform students that if they are not comfortable handling a sticky situation within their department/program, the Graduate College offers help with conflict resolution

Support career development
- Host an annual ‘Career Day’, possibly in partnership with another unit(s)
- Invite alumni from industry to present, and provide opportunities for students to network
- Direct students through handbook/website to campus resources, including the Graduate College’s Career Development office (www.grad.illinois.edu/careerdevelopment)
- Provide information/support for meetings, conferences

Personalize annual graduate student reviews
- Include a dialogue between each student and her/his advisor
- Hold an annual meeting at which faculty collectively take stock of each student’s progress
- Consider making annual reviews electronic so data base can be created and shared

Try to raise URM% among recruited grad students
- Participate in ASPIRE, Community of Scholars, Illinois Partners for Diversity
- Send departmental representatives to SACNAS and other URM conferences, leveraging funds from the Graduate College’s BADGE program (www.grad.illinois.edu/eep/badge-funding)

Establish a graduate student organization
- Or at least expose students to other grad student organizations across campus

Offer or refer students to a scientific writing skills course
- Include information on writing, reviewing and revising scientific papers

Other best practices can be found at http://www.grad.illinois.edu/bmp/index