

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **YEAR 1 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:**

*As a first year, your focus should be on completing course work and searching for a lab to join. This form is a tool to help you set goals and track your progress in graduate school. It also serves as a personal record of your accomplishment which you and your future PI can leverage when applying for funding or jobs.*

1. List the courses you are considering taking in your first three quarters. You must complete at least 18 graded credits in graduate school. *(Note: Most students take 2 classes per quarter in their first year. Based on when courses are offered, you may choose to deviate from that. For advice on courses, consider talking with fellow students, professors, and possibly the Associate Chair of the Graduate Program)*
2. Which groups are you interested in joining? In addition to contacting the professor, consider meeting with other members of lab and attending group meetings.
3. List any past achievements you have from college and/or summer, including any publications, presentations, and seminars, honors, and awards. It is helpful to keep track of these achievements in a CV and sharing some of these achievements with a professor may help him/her better understand your history and for letters of recommendation in the future.
4. Sketch out a rough timeline for graduate school *(it may include things like the number and rate of paper publications you would like, a graduation date, and any special conferences you would like to attend)*. Often, students set high expectations for themselves, so consider asking professors and more senior graduate students for feedback on your goals and expectations.

