

# Why Pursuing PhD? Think Twice and Think Every Time

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## Abstract

*It is not a common thing for a student to go for a Graduate level, or even PhD level. At this level, everyone has his own motivation and reason to continue studying and keep working hard. So why does it become my lifestyle? I think I should review my motivation and the process before entering in UTSA, and then I might get some reasons for that.*

## 1. Why Working for a PhD?

Surely, there are many other options besides doing research in the lab for a PhD. I had do some internship in my undergrad level and have some experience with industry. However, as I was doing those internship work, I found that it is needed for us to learn more if we wanted to understand a project or the big picture of the whole process for a work better.

Dr. Liu has also helped me a lot with the preparation before entering UTSA. He had a lot of experience both in industry and in academy. He suggested me to try get the motivation for myself to work when doing research and studying. So I hope I could strengthen my will to keep on working.

## 2. What Do You Think the Process of Doing Research Involves?

Doing research is quite a long run with multiple processes. Firstly, a researcher should have an idea of which field or which aspect he would work on. Then, he should study the papers in this field, especially in the most recent years. Making sure the idea is original and no one is doing in a similar way is also very important.

After the literature review, the researcher should make a detailed plan first, including the brief plan and everyday plan. A good plan is very

important for the research. To make a good plan, the researcher should have a good understanding of the field based on the reading of the papers. After that, the researcher would work with a team to collaborate with others to get to the target. Team work and self-discipline is needed in this process. Finally, the team have some outcomes, and the researcher must put it into several papers in order to publish to the world of the field.

## 3. Whose Research Do You Find Most Inspiring and Why?

As I have studied and worked with Dr. Tongping Liu for half a year, I have some understanding of his field. His work is focusing on parallel computing, cloud computing and big data. This field is quite promising and has a lot to do with both industry and academia. Basically I have worked to develop a debugging tool these period time.

However, I think this field is not quite fit for me though it is interesting and promising. I think my interest lies in the field of software engineering, and I have also done some work in this field in my previous level. I think I have the motivation to seek this field in greater detail. I would like to spend this semester trying to find if it fits me well.

## 4. What Research Result(s) Do You Find Most Interesting?

The results of research processes could be very interesting. Among those results I think the results in cloud computing could be very cool. Those new results changed the way of computing, and led to a different working style for many teams. Though I find that the field is not much matching with my interest, the result of this field can be very good.