Be Your Own Boss

• Personal success
  – Set goals (set your graduation date and then figure out what you need to do to get there)
  – Think ahead – where do you want to be when you finish?
  – Be independent
  – Be a self-starter
Be Your Own Boss

• Personal success (cont’d)
  – Learn how to give technical presentations
  – Learn how to do technical writing
  – Get involved in professional organizations
  – Attend conferences and seminars
Be Your Own Boss

• Problem solving
  – Know the questions you’re trying to answer!
  – Set a time limit – if you haven’t figured it out by the deadline, ask for help
  – Ask other students to help you solve research problems
  – When you take a problem to your advisor, have a few ideas for a solution
Be Your Own Boss

• Effective research
  – Do a thorough literature review early
  – Keep good data
  – Document everything!
  – Don’t miss the forest for the trees
  – Take charge of your research – you are the expert now!
Be Your Own Boss

• Client (Advisor) Relations
  – Anticipate what your advisor wants and have it ready
  – Meet deadlines (Give your advisor what she wants when she wants it)
  – Don’t wait for your advisor to tell you what to do next
  – Offer to write a conference paper using your most recent data