What is an Ombudsperson?
School Ombudspersons

Roles of the Ombudsperson:
• Listen to graduate student/postdoc concerns.
• Explain university and school policies.
• Explain the grade appeal process.
• Act as a neutral resource
• Facilitate communication
• Refer individuals to others as appropriate.
• Keep information confidential except as required by law or university policy

The Ombudsperson does not:
• Change grades.
• Change policies.
• Take sides; goal is mutual understanding between differing points of view.
• Identify individuals without permission, except as required by law or university policy, which includes Title IX issues.
• Take part in formal grievance processes.
There are two websites you need to be familiar with.

Need to know both.

- University-wide Guidelines, Policies, & Resources

- University of Pittsburgh (Found on Provost Policies & Guidelines) Academic Integrity Guidelines
Some Parting Thoughts

• It’s Ok to ask questions
• Give yourself some grace.
• Know where the policies are. Refer to them.
• Educate Yourself.
• Remember the Ombuds as a confidential resource.