



# Graduate School

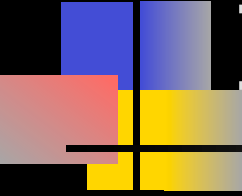
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## Preparing and Applying

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University

# Is Graduate School Right For You?





# Issues to Confront

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- Academic Issues
  - Academic preparation
  - Matching the program with career goals
- Personal Issues
  - Financial planning
  - Time management
  - Relationships



# Academic Qualifications

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- Have I taken the right undergraduate courses?
  - Find out what courses are expected
- Are my grades good enough?
  - Most graduate programs require a 3.0 GPA
- What if the answer is no to these questions?
  - Use the Graduate Non-degree Program





# Match Program to Career Goals

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- Graduate programs demand
  - Deep knowledge base (“steward of the discipline”)
  - Developing professionalism
  - Life-long-learning
- Careers demand
  - Knowledge and skills to apply to problems
  - Professional behavior
  - Creativity and flexibility
  - Leadership skills



# What Type of Degree Do I Need?

Academic doctoral	Traditional masters	Professional masters	Traditional professional
PhD	MS, MA	MS, MA, MPH, MHA	MD, DDS, JD, DPT, MSW
Research-based	Research-based	Practice-based cross-disciplinary	Practice-based
4 to 7 years	2 to 3 years	1 to 3 years	3 to 5 years
Major research project with dissertation	Research with thesis or capstone	Research project or capstone	Clinical practitioner training



# Can I Afford Graduate School?

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- What is the true cost?
  - Tuition and required fees
  - Housing costs/living expenses
  - Loss of current income
  - Undergraduate loans: will they be deferred?
- What financial help can I get?
  - Tuition waivers
  - Stipend
  - AIs
  - Loans



# Do I Have Time for Graduate School?

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- Time demands of graduate school
  - Actual class time
  - Research/study time
  - Full time vs part time
- Time demands of life situation
  - Commute time
  - Child care





# Relationships

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- Who will help me get through the emotional demands of graduate school?
  - Parents
  - Spouse
  - Friends
  - Children
  - Fellow students



# Keys to a Successful Application

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- Applicant's academic preparation matches program
- Applicant's career goals match program
- Applicant has a plan for success
- Application shows signs of careful preparation and planning



# The Graduate School Application

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- Application form
- Academic record
  - Transcripts of all undergraduate work
- Admissions test scores
  - GRE, MCAT, LSAT, DAT, GMAT, ....
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Admissions interview



# Online Applications

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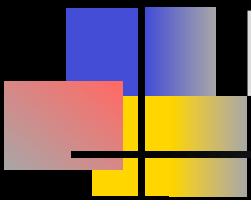
- Each one is unique
  - Preview the ones for schools you are most interested in
- Gather your information before you start
  - It is frustrating to stop and start because you have to look for a piece of information
- Read the instructions
  - Help with the application is usually somewhere on the page, if you look carefully



# Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

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- What is it?
  - Verbal reasoning
    - "...measures your ability to understand what you read and ... apply your reasoning skills."
  - Quantitative reasoning
    - Emphasis on data interpretation
  - Analytical writing
    - Sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion
- Does every program require it?
  - No; confirm with your program
- How do I prepare?
  - You have been preparing all along
  - GRE website offers free practice materials
  - Commercial or local prep courses



# Letters of Recommendation

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- Who should write them?
  - People who know your academic qualifications
- What do you need to give to the writers to help them write the letter you need?
  - A copy of your transcript
  - A resume
  - Make certain the writer knows your career goals



# What is a Personal Statement?

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- Also called other things
  - Letter of intent
  - Statement of purpose
  - Autobiographical statement
  - Personal narrative
- How do I know what “they” want?
  - Look for guidelines specific to program





# Admissions Interview

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- Project professionalism
- Be prepared to explain your goals
- Show knowledge of that program
- Have a list of questions
- Bring a copy of your resume to leave