

## Graduate and Professional School

### Step One:

#### IS GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL THE BEST STEP FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER?

1. Do you have a love for a particular subject that you would like to study in depth?  Yes  No
2. Is there a need for an advanced degree to move into your career of choice?  Yes  No
3. Are you ready to commit to a specific career field?  Yes  No
4. Is there a good return on investment in the advanced degree; the benefits exceed the costs?  Yes  No

\*If you answered yes to all or most of the above, you may be ready for the next steps in the graduate school process! Please know that you are not alone in this process. Connect with faculty, advisors, career coaches in Career Services and your professional network as you begin the graduate and professional school process.

### Step Two:

#### RESEARCH AND GATHER INFORMATION ON WHICH PROGRAMS BEST FIT YOUR ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS.

- Visit the campus and treat this process like you did during your undergraduate school search, or better! What is the campus culture like? Faculty to student ratio and support? Facilities? Geographic location? Academic services?
- Which institutions offer the program you wish to study and what does their program focus on? Theory? Research? Case Study? Thesis vs. Non Thesis?
- What financial support is offered, such as fellowships, graduate assistantships, employment, scholarships, application fee waivers, etc.?
- What other benefits set each school apart? Institution's Accreditations? Internships? Practicum and other experiences? Average starting salaries and post-graduate placement rates? Reputation?
- What are the requirements for admittance, requested application materials and deadlines for each school? Fall vs. spring admittance? Entrance exam requirements? etc.

Check-out the following websites to help you in collecting information on graduate and professional schools:

- [Allaboutgradschool.com](http://Allaboutgradschool.com)
- [Gradschools.com](http://Gradschools.com)
- [Princetonreview.com/grad](http://Princetonreview.com/grad)
- [Collegeconfidential.com](http://Collegeconfidential.com)
- [Matchcollege.com](http://Matchcollege.com)
- [Onlinemastersprograms.org](http://Onlinemastersprograms.org)
- [Petersons.com](http://Petersons.com)
- U.S. News: grad school rankings

### Step Three:

#### SIGN UP AND STUDY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, IF APPLICABLE.

Kaplantest.com offers prep resources and information online, including field-specific exams.

- GRE: [ets.org/gre](http://ets.org/gre)
- GMAT: [mba.com](http://mba.com)
- PCAT: [pcatweb.info](http://pcatweb.info)
- DAT: [ada.org](http://ada.org)
- LSAT: [lsac.org](http://lsac.org)
- MAT: [pearsonassessments.com](http://pearsonassessments.com)
- MCAT: [students-residents.aamc.org](http://students-residents.aamc.org)
- OAT: [ada.org/en/oat](http://ada.org/en/oat)

### Step Four:

#### APPLICATION PROCESS AND REFERENCES.

- Each institution may have different application requirements, deadlines, and exam requirements. Make sure you pay close attention to the details and don't hesitate to contact the school for clarification.
- Essays: Use your resources! Faculty, advisors, Career Services staff, and your network are here to help you outline and perfect your materials. Connect with them early in the process and share with them the application essay requirements.
- Interviews: Some schools will require an in person interview; Career Services is also available for mock interviews.
- References: Reach out to faculty and professional references early in the process and share institution and program information to which you are applying. Don't forget to send a thank you note! It is helpful and often requested that you supply an updated resume or curriculum vitae. Career Services also can help you create these documents!

Graduate & Professional School Checklist and Timeline	Safety School #1:	Safety School #2:	Probably School #1:	Probably School #2:	Reach School #1:	Reach School #2:
Information Collected (Start 1-1.5yrs in advance)						
Visit Institution (Ideally prior to applying)						
Admission Deadlines						
Entrance Exam: Sign up (November/December)						
Exam: Scores Sent						
Application Submitted (Ave. Dec-Feb deadlines)						
Transcripts Sent						
References Sent						
References: Thank you notes sent						
Application Received: Notification						
Financial Aid Deadline						
Financial Aid: Applied						
Assistantship/Fellowship: Deadline						
Assistantship/Fellowship: Applied						
Campus Interview Date						
Accepted, Rejected or Wait Listed?						
Tuition: Deposit Paid						
Housing: Deadline						
Housing Application: Deposit Paid						
Withdrew application for schools not chosen						
Special Notes:						