Guidelines for Applicants on What Graduate Programs Are Seeking

What are graduate programs looking for when recruiting future graduate students? Understanding what admissions committees are seeking and meeting those requirements is the beginning of being a successful candidate.

Many of the recruiters who attended the Grad Expo at IUPUI in 2013 sent us guidelines of what they are pursuing. Though they may or may not be attending our 2015 event, the advice is still relevant. Do your qualifications match their expectations?

Business

Northwood University is currently looking for students with any education background that are looking to enter into our accelerated (1-year) MBA program. While a GPA over 3.0 will help greatly, it is not the ultimate deciding factor when looking for great students that meet the demands of this unique classroom setting. You can meet with Zachary Zanotti (zanottiz@northwood.edu) at the Expo and check out their website: www.northwood.edu/graduate.

Child Development

Maggie Murphy (MMurphy@erikson.edu) from Erikson Institute: Graduate School in Child Development in Chicago, IL reports:
Below are the specifics of what we look for in students at Erikson Institute:
- minimum 2.75 GPA (ideally 3.0 or higher)
- minimum of one year of work/volunteer experience in a supervised setting with young children. The experience factor is very important to us. It does not have to be one full-time year, but can also come from part-time volunteer or paid work over several years. Students who do not meet this requirement will likely be asked to work in the field while completing their degree.
- no one particular degree or professional background is necessary or is predominant. We mainly seek out the experience, as mentioned, combined with suitability for the field of early childhood.
www.erikson.edu.

Labor and Employment Relations

The University of Illinois School of Labor and Employment Relations recruiter, Elizabeth Barker (ebarker@illinois.edu), reports “When looking for the right student, we look at the application as a whole, so a combination of all of the above works great for us.

What we really look for outside of this is someone that is really interested in the field of human resources and/or employment relations.
Many of our students come from Psychology programs where they may have taken an I/O Psychology course or a Personnel Psychology course and gotten interested in the field.
Others come from Sociology or History backgrounds were they may be interested in the history of work, meaningful work, etc.

And finally, some come from management backgrounds where they see the value on the bottom line of having a productive and happy workforce.” www.ler.illinois.edu
Medical School
For those interested in attending medical school, The American University of the Caribbean recruiter Julie Mondy declares “the admissions committee at AUC does look at its medical school applications holistically to try to get a full picture of an applicant’s viability, including GPAs, MCAT scores, and letters of recommendation from pre-health committee members/science professors, interview performance, and medically-related experience. Currently, the average GPA and MCAT score for students accepted to AUC is 3.3 and 25, respectively, however, that is not to say that students below these averages are discouraged to apply. The ideal student AUC seeks is one who has academic aptitude to successfully complete coursework and standardized exams, as well one who has an interest in/experience with community service (medically-related is preferable, but not required to apply). Pre-health student organizations, like AMSA, would be target grad fair participants for AUC.”
http://www.iit.edu/graduate_admission/

Osteopathic Medicine
Dan Kallenberger (dlkallenberger@marian.edu) of Marion University College of Osteopathic Medicine indicates Marion is always looking for bright and talented individuals, especially those who are from Indiana or want to stay in Indiana to practice.

We’d like to see more personal letters of recommendation that speak about the student both academically and socially, we’d our students to have demonstrated leadership in some capacity, some research experience is nice but not required, they need to have some shadowing experience, as well as showing a good fit to our mission. www.marian.edu/medicalschool

Numerous Programs
 Ball State University
Our neighbor to the north, Stephanie Wilson (shuffman@bsu.edu), of Ball State University writes that Ball State is seeking

- Majors: History, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science, Anthropology, and English.
- At least 3.2 GPA
- Strong communication skills

http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/gradschool

 Eastern Illinois University
Some representatives attend Expo are recruiters for numerous programs. Lori Henderson (lahenderson@eiu.edu) of Eastern Illinois University says “I will be there representing 29 different graduate programs so it is hard for me to speak with one voice for all those programs. EIU's minimum GPA is 2.75, but most grad programs require a 3.0, some programs require the GRE but not all, all programs offer assistantships but the stipend varies per program, etc. Sorry I am not able to be more specific. I am happy to talk to any student who wanders my way! My goal is to "sell" our grad programs and then get the grad program's coordinator to follow up with them.” www.eiu.edu/graduate

 Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville
Our recruiter friend, Jeff Chitwood (jchitwo@siue.edu), of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, notes although it is difficult to generalize specific traits since each of our programs looks for different things, the following information should help:
Many SIUE graduate programs are theoretical in nature and look for specific research interests of student applicants to ensure that faculty can appropriately mentor them during graduate study. This makes SIUE an excellent fit for students with future doctoral aspirations.

In general, heavy emphasis is placed on GPA, personal statement, and research experience or interests.

SIUE graduate programs are primarily offered in a traditional, on-campus format with many courses offered in the afternoons and evenings.

SIUE offers some unique graduate programs such as Art Therapy Counseling, Nurse Anesthesia, Environmental Science Management, and Biotechnology Management to name a few.

For students in search of online or hybrid courses, SIUE offers Instructional Technology and Nursing programs online.

siue.edu/graduastudents

Science, Engineering and Technology

Illinois Institute of Technology

Chris Maund (cmaund@iit.edu) of the Illinois Institute of Technology divulges “IIT is best known for science, engineering and technology (one of our alumni, Marty Cooper, led the team that invented the hand-held cell phone). We also have a world-class business school that is rated #1 in the Midwest and #3 nationally for Finance. For those students who want to make a difference in our environment, we offer a unique MS in Environmental Management and Sustainability -- preparing students to make both the scientific and business cases for sustainability.

Ergo, we are looking for students with a genuine passion to make a difference in tomorrow’s world. The most selective programs heavily weight the GRE and GPA. Having a clear understanding of mathematics is an important trait at IIT, even for business.

If you have staff or alumni of City Year, or members of NSH MBA, please let them know about us. They qualify for annual scholarships up to $10,000 for graduate studies in business.”

Pharmacy

Manchester College of Pharmacy

Gregory Hetrick (gbhetrick@manchester.edu) of Manchester College of Pharmacy declares

- The minimum GPA to be considered for the College of Pharmacy is a 2.5, but the average student has a GPA of around a 3.1. Most students accomplish that with a full course load, and though it isn’t required, it is preferred so they can demonstrate ability to achieve academically as a full-time student.
- Essays are important; these are looked at for writing ability and to find out their motivation towards a pharmacy career.
- We are looking for students who see service as a way of life and participate in a variety of opportunities to give back to the community.
- Pharmacy practice is our focus. We are looking for students who want to be trained in clinical pharmacy and patient care. We do not have research opportunities except through personal pursuit and some electives.

http://www.manchester.edu/pharmacy/index.htm
Psychology

Adler School of Professional Psychology

The Adler School of Professional Psychology recruiter, Jo Wagner (jwagner@adler.edu), lists these traits as ones that Adler admission committees look for in ideal candidates:

- GPA: 3.0 for Master’s and 3.25 for Doctorate degrees.
  - If borderline they can still apply – I would recommend putting an addendum at the end of personal statement explaining what happened.
- GRE required for Doctorate applicants (not for Master’s). No minimum score required, but scoring in the top 50% is ideal.
- A personal statement that outlines who they are, why they want to get into the field they are pursuing, what they plan to do when they’re done, and how they believe an education at Adler will help them achieve their goals.
- 3 Letters of recommendation from professional or academic references. If they have graduated within the last 2 years at least one of them needs to be from an academic reference. Start building relationships – we can tell if a LOR is a generic letter a professor gives to everyone who asks for one.
- A commitment to social justice and social responsibility.
- Compassion, flexibility, and the ability to empathize as a human being – won’t be needed in school per se, but to be successful in this field these traits are very useful.
- Attention to detail!
  - Proofread everything! You’d be surprised how many personal statements we get with the name of our school wrong.
  - Know the proper titles for the positions you can pursue with the degree you are applying to. For example, only those with a doctorate degree can be called a psychologist. At the master’s level they are called counselors or therapists. It may seem like a small detail, but to those in the field it is not and our admissions committee notices these things when reviewing files – wrong titles might imply the student hasn’t done enough research into the field.

Theology

Western Theological Seminary

Western Theological Seminary representative Jill English (jill.english@westernsem.edu) speaks to the quality of the relationship between the potential student and the institution and says “Given that we train students academically and formationally to be leaders in all types of social service and ministry from a Christian, evangelical foundation, I hope to meet students who ideally want to combine their Christian faith and their vocation. Ideal candidates might include:

- Those who wish to combine a psychology or sociology degree program with their Christian faith to provide faith-based counseling or social service work
- Religion, history, writing, philosophy or literature majors who want to work in faith-based institutions or teach from a faith-based perspective
- Health science majors hoping to serve in international health mission work
- Students with interests to serve in faith-based non-profit organizations
- Students who are leaders within faith-based or campus ministry programs on campus
- Students with strong interests in social justice issues
- Social work majors (can complete the MSW and the MDiv in three years with advanced standing in a MSW program)
Successful students will have a solid Christian faith, but will not need an extensive background of theological or biblical study - that's our job. [www.westernsem.edu](http://www.westernsem.edu)

**Translational Medicine**  
[Van Andel Institute](http://www.vai.org)  
Carol Rapley ([carol.rappley@vai.org](mailto:carol.rappley@vai.org)) of VanAndel Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan is seeking those passionate about doing research with an emphasis on translational medicine (bench to the bedside and back). Our cancer track didactic courses are now integrated with Neurosciences and Parkinson’s disease. We need those with a 3.0 GPA in the ‘core sciences’, the general GRE exam (no longer require a Subject test – optional), and research experience. We will accept MCAT in lieu of GRE scores. We are a problem based learning program, time to degree: 5 years with guaranteed funding. VAI also does not have an application fee, waives tuition and provides funding for travel to conferences and workshops every year. Additionally, the institute hosts the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Conference annually. It is a great opportunity to present on the research students are doing as undergraduates and to begin to build their networks as they contemplate grad school. [www.vai.org](http://www.vai.org)

**Veterinary Medicine**  
[Purdue University](http://vet.purdue.edu/education/)  
Representatives for the Purdue Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program state “The role of the veterinarian in our society has continually evolved as new challenges arise. Today’s veterinarian has a multitude of career opportunities not only in private practice, but also in public practice, industry and areas dealing with the environment, community health, food resource management, wildlife preservation, space exploration, and marine biology. Teaching provides opportunities to train new and eager students in the classroom. Researchers participate in the cutting-edge advancements in veterinary medicine that may lead the way to applications in human medicine. The diversity of this profession is exciting, rewarding and limited only by your imagination!"  

**Prospective Applicants:**  
Students interested in a veterinary medical education at Purdue must complete 2 - 3 years of required course work in an under-graduate program in order to be eligible to apply to our program. Required courses must be completed with a "C - " grade (1.7 on a 4.0 scale) or better in each course and applications must maintain a competitive cumulative grade point average. Non-resident applicants must have a cumulative GPA (including all course repeats) of no less than 3.00 to receive consideration. For More information please visit our website: [http://vet.purdue.edu/education/](http://vet.purdue.edu/education/)