



Graduate School

Preparing and Applying

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Is Graduate School Right For You?





Issues to Confront

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



Academic Qualifications

- 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

- 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?

- 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?

- 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

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



Graduate Studies at IUPUI





Keys to a Successful Application

- 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

- 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

- 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)

- 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

- 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?

- 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

- 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

