**QUESTIONS TO ASK AT A GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR**

An informed and focused set of questions will convey to the representative that you are truly interested in graduate school. Your questions allow the representative to avoid generalities and treat you as an individual. Here are a variety of questions that should help you get the most out of the conversations.

**Tip:** Take a few moments before the fair to look at the list of attendees and their full descriptions of the programs they offer at [www.csuci.edu/gsc/graduate-school-fair.htm](http://www.csuci.edu/gsc/graduate-school-fair.htm)

 Be sure to speak with admissions representatives from the programs that interest you.

* What do you think is unique about your program?
* Are students admitted in both fall and spring semesters?
* Is it possible to work full-time and complete the degree as a part-time student?
* How much does the program cost (tuition, student fees, housing)?
* What types of financial aid are available (fellowships, assistantships, scholarships, loans)?
* Could you tell me more about student life on campus (student organizations, housing, support groups, diversity of the students)?
* What is the location surrounding the school like (mountains, ocean, rural, city)?
* What are the admission requirements (deadline, GPA, undergraduate coursework, entrance exams, experience, interview)?
* What resources are available to help students find positions after graduation?
* Would it be possible for me to arrange a campus visit in which I could meet with admissions representatives, current students, and faculty?
* May I contact you if I have additional questions?

**Here are some more suggested questions:**

**Admissions:**

* What is the admissions selection process? What is the makeup of the admissions committee? Is selection made by the faculty of the specific department to which you are applying? Is selection made by a single faculty member? Or a committee? If selection is made by a faculty member, is the selection based on the faculty members desire to become the applicant’s graduate supervisor?
* What are the programs goals and specialties considered to be? *Knowing the answer to this question will help you assess how strong a candidate you are by comparing how well your strengths play to these objectives.*
* In what areas are your program strongest?
* What do you look for in assessing an applicant’s character or personality?
* What type of evidence do you look for in considering whether a student possesses special skills or interests that mesh with faculty research interests?
* What tests are required for admission? What is the latest date they may be taken in order to be considered for Fall 2019 admission?

**Curriculum:**

* What are the programs’ areas of expertise? E.g., an Economics Department may offer expertise in labor economics as opposed to economic development.

**Housing:**

* Is graduate housing available?
* Is off-campus housing available nearby?
* Does the school help graduate students find housing?
* What is the average cost of off-campus housing?
* Is parking difficult? Is there a public transportation system?

**Financial Aid:**

* What will it cost over \_\_ years to attend this program?
* How do most of your graduate students pay for the program?
* How much scholarship money is available? What criteria are used to award scholarships?
* Is parents’ income considered? How many awards are continued through to completion of the degree?
* How does your school handle financial aid awards? Can I expect to know your aid awarded and proportion of loans/scholarships before I am required to pay a deposit?
* What types of teaching assistantships are available?

**Career Development:**

* Where do students find employment?
* Where do students typically go geographically?
* Is there a network of contacts that could help students obtain jobs in a particular geographical area?
* What resources do you provide to assist students in finding jobs?
* Is there a career services office for graduate students?
* How does the office work with alumni who request services?