



California State  
University

**CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES**

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C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

### **Graduate School Questions to Ask Graduate School Representatives**

1. What characteristics are specific to this program and distinguish it from competitors?
2. Where are recent alumni employed? What do most students do after graduation?
3. What types of financial aid are offered? What criteria are used for choosing recipients?
4. Are there any scholarships or fellowships available? How do I apply?
5. Are there teaching opportunities, such as teaching assistantships and adjunct positions?
6. Do most students publish an article or present a paper before graduation?
7. What planned practical experiences are included in the program (e.g., internships)? Ask for examples of internship placements.
8. What is the relative importance of admissions test scores, undergraduate grades, recommendations, statements on applications, experience, and other requirements?
9. Does the department prefer applicants immediately out of undergraduate programs or do they prefer applicants with work experience? If they prefer or require experience, what kind of experience are they looking for?
10. How are mentoring and advising relationships established? Are advisors assigned?
11. How long do most students take to graduate? How many years of course work? How long do most students take to complete their dissertations?
12. Do most students live near campus? What is it like to live in this area as a graduate student?