How to Prepare for the Graduate School Application Process

Graduate Studies Center
Hello!

GRADUATE STUDIES CENTER
1. Getting Started
Two Questions to Assist in Thinking about Graduate School

1) Why do you want to attend graduate school?

2) What is this degree going to do for you: Personal, Professional and Academic
When and where should I start?

START EARLY

Preferably, you need to begin as soon as the possibility of graduate school surfaces.
Self-reflect

Know yourself in order to know which program is the right fit for you.
Questions

✗ What are your interests, personality preferences, and strengths?
✗ What are your goals personally and professionally?
✗ Do you have goals?
✗ What have you accomplished?
Research career options
Talk with professors to learn about options and opportunities
Research careers and job descriptions
  Career Center
Job shadow / informational interview with professionals in your field of interest
Visit websites of professional associations
Intern and work in areas of interest
Research Graduate Schools and Programs
Researching Graduate Programs

CSU Degrees http://degrees.calstate.edu
UC Degrees http://graduate.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/degree-search
Eureka www.eureka.org
Myplan http://www.mypian.com
Petersons Guide https://www.petersons.com
U.S. News-Beyond College http://www.usnews.com/education
Graduate School Guide http://www.graduguide.com
gradschools.com http://www.gradchools.com
gradsource.com http://www.gradsource.com
Researching Graduate Programs

- Compile a list of schools offering your field of study
- Read professional journals
  - Who is published?
  - Which schools are represented?
- Determine the location of each school
  - Environment, class size, region, etc.
- Determine the admission requirements for your programs of interest
Researching Graduate Programs

✗ Determine the length of program
✗ Will you be taking day or evening classes?
  ✓ Will you be in the program on a part-time or full-time basis?
  ✓ How long will it take, on average, to complete this program?
✗ Research the reputation and mission of the
  ✓ School
  ✓ Specific program of interest
✗ Find out the required coursework offered and the level of academic rigor involved
Once you have narrowed down to a specific program:

✗ Research the faculty who would be teaching your courses
✗ Professional backgrounds
✗ Scholarship profiles
✗ Interests
✗ How accessible are the faculty
✗ Seek out comments from current students and alumni
✗ Found in promotional material
✗ Find out if the school has the accreditation(s) necessary for your specific career field
Be as organized as possible to reduce stress on yourself
How Many Schools Should You Consider Applying to?
Application Requirements
• Application + Fees
• GPA Requirements
• Standardized Test
• Prerequisites
• Personal Statement
• Letters of Recommendation
• Professional Résumé / CV
• Interview
Application + Fees

✗ Specifically follow the directions of the application.
✗ Indicate N/A (Not Applicable) for any blank that does not apply to you.
✗ Start applying early
✗ Submit application early

contact schools to be sure your application has been received
GPA Requirements

✗ The GPA is one of the many indicators of how well you perform your job as a graduate student
✗ Masters
  ✓ 3.0 or 3.3 GPA is typically required
✗ Doctoral programs
  ✓ 3.3 or 3.5 is typically required
✗ GPA calculations will vary by program
Standardized Test

✗ GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, MAT or PCAT
✗ Start now!
✗ Buy a test prep book and register for a prep course
✗ Take a free practice test online and see how you do
  www.kaplan.com or www.ETS.org
✗ Download free apps to help you with vocab & math
Prerequisites

✗ Find out what pre-reqs are required
✗ How many have you taken/ need?
✗ Are community college prereqs accepted?
✗ Does your program need a # of volunteer hours or full time experience?
Personal Statement

✗ Tell your story
✗ Let the school know why you are the best fit
✗ How will the school help you?
✗ How will YOU help the school?
✗ Know the school and the program
   ✓ Mission
   ✓ Purpose
   ✓ Current students
   ✓ Current research
   ✓ Current faculty
✗ Tailor each statement to the program
✗ Get feedback from professors
✗ Different schools will have different instructions
Letters of Recommendation

- Request letters at least 3 months before they are due.
- Provide your recommender with a copy of your resume, transcripts and personal statement.
- Ask them to emphasize certain elements you think the school will want to know.
- Provide your recommender with a soft deadline and follow up.
- Must be someone that knows you and your work VERY WELL.
- Professional and Academic reference who is familiar with your work.
- Every school accepts letters differently.
- By mail, in person, or through electronic form.
- Find out how recommender will submit and let them know.
- Waive your right to view recommendation letters on your application forms.
Résumé / CV

✗ Make sure to ask if the school needs a CV or a resume
✗ Must reflect your work related to your academic pursuits
✗ Visit CI’s Career Development Resource Center for assistance
Interview

✗ Types of Interviews
  ✗ Closed
  ✗ Open
  ✗ 1-1
  ✗ Panel

✗ Length
✗ Sample & mock Interviews
✗ Follow up with Thank You note
Visit our Graduate Studies Center website to stay up to date with events, workshops, and more!

[Visit the website](www.csuci.edu/gsc)
Let us know which graduate school and program will you be attending

Any Questions?
Graduate Studies Center

Graduate School Counseling

Thinking about Graduate School?

Meet with our Graduate Studies Center Counselor interns to discuss career, and graduate school options.

*Please check online or contact the Graduate Studies Center for specific appointment availabilities

Call or Schedule an appointment online: www.csuci.edu/gsc/

805-437-3579 • gs.center@csuci.edu • El Dorado Hall
Spring 2019 Graduate Writing Studio

The Graduate Writing Studio (GWS) provides writing support to graduate and credential students in order to meet the increasingly complex requirements of advanced degree writing.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS • THESIS REVIEW • COVER LETTERS • ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

Monica Pereira
Mondays
(in person)
4:30pm – 6:30pm

To schedule an appointment, please contact us:
www.csuci.edu/gsc/
(805) 437-3579
gscwritingstudio@csuci.edu
El Dorado Hall - Main Campus
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES, NEWS, AND TIPS

@CI_GSC

@CI_GSC

CSUCI – Graduate Studies Center