

GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

Graduate school is a great endeavor and can arm you with the skills and the knowledge necessary for many professions; but it only does so if you are embarking on it for the right reasons. To get the most from a graduate program you must be focused on a career goal. Graduate programs are NOT looking for students who apply for the sake of having “something to do” but rather those who apply with a plan in mind.

The decision to embark on an advanced degree is a big one. So, take some time and reflect on these important questions:

- Am I passionate enough about this field to pursue an advanced degree?
- Am I burnt out academically, and do I need time off?
- Financially, can I afford to pursue graduate work?
- Is graduate school my way to postpone tough decisions?

If you feel confident in your response to these questions, then our career coaches can help you sort through the application process, develop a strong personal statement, and make sure you are doing everything possible to gain acceptance to the program of your choice.

EIGHT QUICK STEPS TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1 Make a list of what is important to you in a graduate program (e.g. focus of program, financial assistance provided, number of faculty, research facilities, recreation opportunities, etc).

STEP 5 Study for and take any required admissions tests.

STEP 2 Search the Internet or other resources for programs that match these interests.

STEP 6 Develop your Vita (resume). Have it reviewed by a Career Coach.

STEP 3 For each program, compile a list of any required course work, test scores (E.g. GMAT, GRE), GPA requirements, and application deadlines.

STEP 7 Contact potential reference writers. Ask if they are willing to give you a good, strong, supportive reference. Do not leave this for last minute.

STEP 4 Set a timeline for completing each part of the application process such as writing the statement of purpose, gathering transcripts, and asking for reference letters.

STEP 8 Obtain extra copies of official transcripts or arrange to have them sent to the appropriate schools.