Resources to Apply To Graduate School

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Career Prep Workshop

Presented By: Jason Jeffrey
Workshop Summary

• Why Graduate School?
• Types of Graduate Degrees
• Researching Graduate Programs & Schools
• Graduate School Application Process
  • Timeline
  • Application Materials
  • Resources for applying (LSCAS, AMCAS)
  • Entrance Exams
• Financing Graduate School
Why Graduate School?

- Your career field requires a graduate degree
- You are passionate about a subject
- To do research in a particular field
- Open doors in the future, provide a great network
- To enhance your professional prospects, switch careers or gain flexibility, and maximize earning potential
Why Graduate School?

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment rate in 2014 (%)</th>
<th>Median weekly earnings in 2014 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Professional degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Master's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>High school diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Why NOT Graduate School?

• Someone else wants you to pursue graduate education
• You want to avoid a difficult job market
• Your friends are going, and it seems like a good plan
• You don’t know what to do with your life
Types of Degrees

• Master’s programs
  • Professional
  • Research
• Doctoral programs
  • Professional
  • Research
Researching Grad Schools

- What is important to you?
- Gather information about potential universities, programs, & faculty researchers
- Talk to CMC faculty, family, mentors, & alumni
- Explore websites or contact programs
- Use resources at Career Services or Honnold Library
- Attend graduate school fairs
- Take notes and keep yourself organized
Where Do I Apply?

- Admissions criteria
- Quality of the Program
- Cost
- Course Offerings
- Facilities
- Post-graduate Employment
- Geography
- Student Life & Extracurricular Activities
Graduate School Timeline

- Give yourself 12 - 18 months
- Determine the time you want to matriculate and work backward
  - When to test
  - When to ask for recommendations and transcripts
  - When to write essays
  - When to use application services (LSCAS, AMCAS)
Graduate School Timeline

• In general, applications should be submitted in mid- to late-fall
• Interviews (if applicable) will be late fall – early spring
• Admissions decisions will be in mid-spring
APPLICATION MATERIALS

• Online Application Form
• Application Fee
• Transcripts
• Scores
• Personal Statement/Essays
• Recommendations
• Addenda
**REQUIRED TESTING**

- General Record Examination (GRE)
  - GRE Subject Test
  - February 5, April 16
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
  - February 5
- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
  - January 29, Feb. 6
- Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)
Letters of Recommendation

• Establish these relationships early
• Ask people who can evaluate your academic or work performance and/or research capabilities
• Assist recommenders: provide your resume, statement of purpose, clear instructions
• Ask early and remind recommenders of deadlines
• Thank recommenders!
Statement of Purpose

- Understand what universities expect from a statement of purpose. Read the directions carefully and follow them religiously.
- Use guidelines but write your own unique statement of purpose.
Statement of Purpose

• Who are you?
  • a short personal history, including challenges, influential people or events, skills, motivation.
• How did you first become interested in your discipline?
• Why do you want to pursue this particular program?
  • Don’t sell the school!
• Explain gaps or discrepancies in academic record
Statement of Purpose

• What are your short-term and long-term career goals?
• Overall evidence of suitability for this program and your career

TIPS:
• Give yourself time to re-write and edit
• Have a couple of professors and advisors look it over
• Should be your best writing!
Financial Aid

• Loan calculator: www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml
• Fill out FAFSA by March 2nd!
• What type of aid can you qualify for?
  • Department Scholarships, Assistantships
  • Federal loans
    • Subsidized, unsubsidized
    • Private loans (Be careful, these have variable interest rates!)
Questions?

Reach out to us...

jjeffrey@cmc.edu
careerservices@cmc.edu

CMC Career Services

CMCCSC

@CMCCSC