

Considering Grad School?

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RESEARCH your prospective field

- ⇒ **Talk with:** professors or other UCI staff
- ⇒ **Meet with:** people working in that industry or studying in that field
- ⇒ **Check out:** the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* in the Career Center Library or visit www.bls.gov/oco
- ⇒ **Identify:** prospective schools and seek information on their programs. Check out the *Peterson's Guide to Graduate and Professional Schools* in the Career Center Library or online at www.petersons.com

EVALUATE the various graduate programs based on:

- ⇒ **Department:** Certain institutions are known for particular programs. Check out the *Gourman Report* or *U.S. News Best Graduate Schools* in the Career Center library
- ⇒ **Faculty:** Research the reputation and areas of specialization of the faculty
- ⇒ **Program:** Each school has a different curriculum and philosophy. Make sure they meet your educational goals
- ⇒ **Facilities:** Find out about the libraries, laboratories, and research facilities. What is the depth of the library collection in your particular field of interest?
- ⇒ **Size:** There are advantages and disadvantages to both small and large universities.
- ⇒ **Placement:** Where do graduates go after completing the program?
- ⇒ **Degree requirements:** List all requirements such as residency, unit requirements, language requirements, examinations, candidacy, dissertation, or thesis.

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PREPARE for the admissions process

- ⇒ **Complete your bachelor's degree**
- ⇒ **Aim for a minimum of 3.0 GPA** – Some schools average your last 2 years of school, or the courses in your field of concentration.
- ⇒ **2-3 letters of recommendation** – Choose individuals who know you academically and/or professionally and will give you the best recommendation. The job title or status of that person does not matter; however, at least one reference should be a professor. Before asking for a recommendation, meet with your reference to discuss your career goals and inform them about the program(s).
- ⇒ **Statement of purpose** – State why you are most qualified to be in that particular program. This is a qualitative way to show your eligibility, not quantitative like GRE scores, transcripts, and grades.
- ⇒ **Admissions tests** – In most cases, the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) will be required. Check with each school to identify the appropriate exam.

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FINANCE your education

- ⇒ **Fellowships:** Given to students with the expectation that they will maintain and achieve good standing.
- ⇒ **Loans:** Check with the financial aid department of the schools to which you are applying about loan possibilities. Loans must be repaid.
- ⇒ **Assistantships:** You receive a stipend for which you perform services related to your field.
- ⇒ **Grants:** Like fellowships, these are gifts to graduate students that do not have to be repaid. They are often awarded based upon need and/or special qualifications.
- ⇒ **Work study:** This type of financial aid assists graduate students by providing job opportunities within the institution or in a public or non-profit agency for up to 20 hours per week.

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Resources Available in the Career Center Library:

- ✓ *Preparation: GRE, LSAT, GMAT, MCAT, etc.*
- ✓ *ABA Guide to ABA approved Law Schools*
- ✓ *MBA Programs*
- ✓ *U.S. News - Best Graduate Schools*
- ✓ *Paying for Graduate School*
- ✓ *APA Guide to Graduate Study in Psychology*
- ✓ *Kaplan Admissions Advisor: Business School, Graduate School, and Medical School*
- ✓ *Peterson's Guide to Graduate and Professional Schools*
- ✓ *Graduate Admissions Essays*

