Strategies for Applying to Professional Schools

Lecture Goals

• Discuss tips for applying to graduate/professional school

Grad School

• Know __________________________________________

  • Look for _______________________________________ - fit is critical

  • Pick a __________________________________________

• Apply with career in mind
  
  • Difficult to “change your major”

• If want a __________________________________________ try for it before settling for masters

• Apply to __________________________________________ of programs

• Can I go to PSU for grad school?

4 Primary Grad School Selection Criteria

• 1) GPA
  
  • _________________ = other factors determine entrance

  • _________________ = some schools rule you out, some consider other factors
• ________________ = trouble getting into many programs

• Low grades require explanation

2) ________________________________

• Don’t want ________________________________

• Want letters from ________________________________

• Some people hesitant to write letters
  • Insurance case

• What Grad Schools want in L of R
  • ________________________________
    • High intellectual and scholarly ability
  • ________________________________ skills
  • Emotionally stable and mature
  • ________________________________ skills


3) ________________________________

• What
  • General and Subject specific aptitude tests

• Why?
  • Need ________________________________ across colleges and universities
• General GRE
  • Required by __________________________
  • Administered by computer
  • Offered year-round in select PA locations
    ..... But NOT State College 😞
  • Verbal: 30 min for 30 questions
  • Quantitative: 45 min for 28 questions
  • _________________________________
    • 1 issue (45 min)
    • 1 argument (30 min)
  • PsyD programs -- _____________________ on each part
  • PhD Scientist-practitioner programs -- ____________________ on each part
  • PhD Research-scientist programs -- ________________________ on each part

• Psychology GRE
  • Required by about ____________________________ of doctoral programs
  • Paper-and-pencil
  • Offered in April, November, December
    • If you take it in April you still have time to re-take in Nov./Dec.
  • Offered here 😊
• About _________________________________________________________ questions --

  like PSY 100 final from h*ll!!

• Analyze _________________________________________________________

• Apply principles

• Draw conclusions from data

• Evaluate _________________________________________________________

• ______% = learning, language, memory, thinking, perception, sensation, comparative
  psychology, physiological psychology

• ______% = clinical, abnormal, developmental, personality, social psychology

• ______% = history, applications, measurement, research methods, statistics

• 4) ________________________________________________________________ Experience

• ________________________________________________________________

  Knowledge, skills, abilities

• Commitment

• Realistic _________________________________________________________
Secondary Selection Criteria for Grad School

- __________________________

- __________________________ (goodness of fit)
- Coursework
- Interview
- Interest of proposed faculty mentor

Law School Selection Criteria

- LSAT score + GPA = ____________________________
  - LSAT = reading + verbal ____________________________

- Other experiences that demonstrate requisite __________________________

- ____________________________

- Letters of Recommendation

Med School Selection Criteria

- Bachelor’s degree
- GPA for 6 course courses…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organic chemistry</th>
<th>Physics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
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</table>
• MCAT score
  • Verbal Reasoning
  • Physical Sciences
  • Biological Sciences

Application Packet

• Personal statement

• Why you have these goals

• How this program can help you

• Letters of recommendation
  • Ok to send

• Organize for faculty member
  • Dates and actions (send to you or school)
  • Forms
  • Envelopes
  • Transcript
  • Personal statements
  • Etc...

• Transcripts and

• Standardized test scores

• Curriculum vita or resume –

• Cover letter with
• Copies of written work – 
  • Quality upper-level papers, projects
  • Papers, presentation abstracts

• Check to see department has received EVERYTHING
  • Incomplete packages

• Be patient
  • April 15th notification date
  • Expect personal interview
  • Be ready to accept or reject right away

• Reasons for rejection

I didn’t get in…
• Delay graduation – risky – 
• Re-take select courses

• Graduate and stay
  • Do 
  • Take more courses
• Do well on ______________________

• Become a provisional student at grad school of interest

• Go to program with lower requirements

• Get ______________________________________________

• Get Master’s degree instead