Is Grad Skool Right for You?

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Today’s Topics

• Types of Graduate & Professional Degree Programs

• Reasons to Go to Graduate/Professional School

• Other Things to Consider

• Choosing a Program That is Right for You
Post-Baccalaureate Programs

Teacher Education Programs
- 1 or 2 year program to prepare you to get a teaching credential/license
- Some 2-year programs lead to an M.Ed. in addition to the credential

Prepare for Medical School
- Most for Women & Minorities
- Some Require Failed Application to Med School
- A Few Help Late Deciders
- Intense Focus on Life & Physical Sciences
Types of Master’s Programs

Professional Master’s Programs

• Prepares You to Practice in a Specific Field
• Focus on Teaching Specific Skills & Knowledge Needed to Work in A Professional Field
• Often Includes an Internship or Field Project
• Usually 2 to 3 Years in Duration
• Examples: MS, MA, MSW, M.Div, MFT, MPH, M.Ed., MAT, MLS/MLIS, MFA, MBA, MPA, MIA
• Usually a “Terminal” or Final Degree
Types of Master’s Programs

Research Master’s Programs

• Focus is on Scholarship & Research
• Pursue Greater Knowledge of Academic Discipline
• Most Programs Require Research Thesis
• May Be Preparation for a Doctoral Program or a “Terminal” Degree
• Most are MA – a few MS
• Usually 2 Years in Duration
Types of Doctoral Programs

Professional Doctorate

• Prepares You to Practice in a “Profession”
• Focus is on Teaching Specific Skills & Knowledge
• Often Includes Internship, Clerkship, Etc.
• Duration Varies with Type of Program
• Examples: MD, DO, DC, DDS, Psy.D, Ed.D., Pharm.D., JD
Types of Doctoral Programs

Research Doctorate

• Prepares You for Academic or Research Career*
• Focus on Scholarship & Research
• Course Work, Qualifying Examinations
• Must Demonstrate Ability to Add to “Body of Knowledge” thru Original Research (Dissertation)
• Usually 5 to 7 Years in Duration
• Ph.D., Ed.D. – Some Joint Programs Combine with Professional Doctorate; e.g: MD/Ph.D.
• *Some Ph.D.’s Market Skills in Business/Government
Good Reasons to Go

• I Love this Subject & Have to Learn More!
• This Degree is an Essential First Step to Pursuing the Career that I Want
• I am Making a Significant Career Change & this Degree Will Increase My Marketability
Questionable Reasons

- I am afraid that I Can’t Find a Job with My BA/BS

- I Need More Time to ‘Find’ Myself

- My Family, Friends, or Professors are Pressuring Me to Go
Other Things to Consider

Now or Later?

• A Few Years “Real World” Experience May Clarify Your Career Goals

• Some Programs (MBA/MIA) Require 2-3 Years Experience

• Will Delay Make Returning to Academe Difficult?
  – Life $tyle & Obligations
  – Biological Clock
  – Letters of Recommendation
  – Study Discipline
Other Things to Consider

Can I Afford It?

• Graduate Education is Usually More Expensive
• Few Sources of Fellowships & Grants for Master’s Programs & First Year of Professional Doctorates
• Living Costs
• Opportunity Costs
Am I Competitive?
• Is my GPA Competitive?
• Do I Perform Well on Standardized Tests
• Have I Built Solid Relationships with Professors (Letters of Recommendation)
• Do I Have a Good Record of Research & Volunteerism
Choosing the Right Program

- *Start Early!*
- Visit Mookini Library Reference Section
- Ask UHH Faculty for Their Recommendations
- Get Catalogs & “Mine” the Programs’ Web Sites
- Find Programs Consistent with Your Goals/Needs.
  - Type of Program/Program Emphasis
  - Faculty Interests & Qualifications
  - Program Requirements
  - Accreditations
- Visit Campuses -- Talk to Students in Program
Choosing the Right Program

- Admission Requirements
- Reputation & Rankings
- Libraries & Other Facilities
- Costs & Financial Aid Availability
- Size
- Type of Students
- Community/Location/Resources
Choosing the Right Program

Career Assistance:

• Does Professoriate Actively Support Students’ Job Search?
• Does School Have A Grad-Student Career Center – or Counselors in the Career Center who Specialize in Assisting Grad Students?
• What Percentage Find Jobs Prior to Graduation?
• In What Fields and At What Salary?
• Does School Have a Strong Alumni Association?
? QUESTIONS ?

Attend one of our “Live” workshops

OR

Visit the Career Center in Campus Center 202A