Applying to Graduate Schools

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What to expect

- Deadline
- Application Fee
- Graduate Record Exam
- Admissions Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Interview
But first…

 Paladin 

 ✤ Ask yourself these questions before you apply

 1. What kind of job are you wanting?
      ✤ Think of the training and education you need.

 2. How much debt can you take on?
      ✤ Take in account how much money you are going to earn then calculate the debt that you can reasonably take on.

 3. Is the program you are looking at going to get you the job you want?
      ✤ Choosing an APA-accredited program can increase your career options.
Deadlines and Fees

- Deadlines for all applications could be different!
  - Look for deadline date in the early part of the semester

- Application fees
  - Prepare to pay to apply!
  - You can find the amount of the application fee on the school website when you apply
  - Depending on the school, Some application fees could range from $50 to $95

- Application fee waver
  - Check to see if you qualify! A simple call to the graduate program will do.
Graduate Record Exam

❖ Most graduate programs require you to take the GRE
❖ There is a cut-off score that varies among programs
❖ Verbal reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytic Writing
❖ Take it early! The spring semester before you apply is suggested.
❖ There are a limited number of seats
❖ $195 fee to take the test. You can take it 5 times a year & 21 days have to past if you choose to take it again.
❖ GRE Subject Test may be required for some programs. It will be specified on the application information.
Opportunity to sell yourself to the program you are applying to.

Some applications call for a general personal statement, while others want a response to specific questions.

Ask yourself what is unique and impressive about you, details of your life that set you apart from others, insights you have gained from this field, how have you learned about this field, how your work has contributed, your career goals, any inconsistencies in your academic record that you should explain, and any obstacles that you had to overcome.

Most importantly, BE YOURSELF.
Letters of Recommendation

✧ This is where getting involved in your department is critical!

✧ Ask people who have worked with you on the professional level. Stay away from personal recommendations.

✧ “Are you capable of writing me a strong letter of recommendation?”

✧ Make it easy for them! Give them due dates for each program, let them know how to send the letter, and give them a summary of your achievements.

✧ Don’t forget to be thankful they are taking the time to do this for you! A hand written thank you note goes a long way.
Involvement

- Being involved in the department is a key component in setting up possible letter-writers.

- Start now! The earlier you get involved, the more you will stand out on your application.

- Research opportunities and assistantships

- Officer positions for the club. Being active in the department club.

  - This gives you an advantage to work with professors outside of the classroom.

- Volunteer work looks great for your application!
The first document a faculty member sees. The actual “first impression”

State why you are writing and why you are a good match for the program and the institution.

Explain experiences in a story-like format, go in-depth about important experiences and relate them to requirements, helps individualize the application, and provide a sample of your written communication skills.

Proofread, proofread, proofread.
Interview

- Prepare yourself to ask meaningful questions
- Research the program, faculty members, and research interests.
- Turning the interview into a discussion is beneficial. You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. This is when you determine if the program is a good fit for you.
- Dress professionally!