From Application To Graduation: Preparing Your Students for Graduate School

Presented by:
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&
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The Application Challenge - video
Why Graduate School?
Graduate School in Three Easy Steps
What Makes a Great Graduate School Candidate?
Tips for Preparing the Application
Financing Graduate Studies
Succeeding in Graduate School
The “New Bachelor’s Degree”

- With increasing competition for careers, a master’s degree is the “new must have”
- “Master’s Degree Preferred”
- Graduate degree leads to higher average salary and lower unemployment rate

**Education pays:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment rate in 2010 (%)</th>
<th>Median weekly earnings in 2010 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>1,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>1,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average: 8.2%  
Average: $782

Point them in the Right Direction

- Step 1: Discuss when to go
- Step 2: Explore resources
  - Idealist.org, Princeton Review, Graduate Fairs
- Step 3: Identify selection criteria
  - Accreditation
  - Rankings
  - Program differences
    - Location
    - Class size
    - Resources offered

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What Makes a Great Candidate?

Application Review is Objective and Holistic

► Be Honest and Realistic
► Tell not only what you hope to gain but what you hope to contribute
► Know about the program and its culture
  ► Contact admissions office
  ► Visit and connect

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1. Use a spreadsheet to organize the schools you’re applying to and their requirements. Track dates of submission.

2. Tell your story in your application essays or personal statement.

3. Emphasize transferable skills - how your experience and academic background have prepared you for a successful graduate school experience.

4. Brush up your math and verbal skills before you take the required admission test (LSAT, GMAT, GRE, etc.)
5. Choose references who have direct knowledge of your abilities and characteristics. Allow enough time for them to prepare your recommendation.

6. Be professional in your email communication with the schools to which you are applying. Avoid slang and text abbreviations. Clean up your Facebook!

7. To prepare for the interview, create a list of accomplishments and challenges that you can easily refer to during the interview.
1. Non-need-based
   → Merit-based Scholarships, Graduate Assistantships and work-study
   → Unsubsidized Stafford and Grad PLUS loans

2. Need-based
   → Perkins loans, work study and grants

3. Loan Forgiveness for Public Service

4. It’s an investment!
Succeeding in Graduate School

1. Time management
2. Professionalism
3. Team projects
4. Taking initiative
5. Balancing school/life
Willamette Early Career MBA

1. Competitive in a Tough Job Market
2. Experience to Build On – Hands-On Learning
4. Pursue Career Interests in Finance, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Non-Profit Management, Sustainability Management and many more...
5. Plan for Future through Career Services
Questions?
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