To Grad School or Not To Grad School?

That is the question.

Your Success is Our Business

701 East 5th Street
(corner of 5th & Jarvis/Chancellor)
252-328-6050
www.ecu.edu/career
**Should I Go to Grad School?**

- ✓ Do I have a clear idea of the career I want to pursue?
- ✓ Is a graduate or professional degree a requirement for my career?
- ✓ Will a graduate degree make employment easier, or more difficult?
- ✓ What can I do with my bachelors degree?
Should I Go to Grad School?

✓ Will the time, work and money I spend in grad school be a good investment?
✓ Is there another avenue for continued learning?
✓ Do I have the personal qualities and skills needed to be successful in grad school?
DON’T Go to Grad School….

✓ ...by default.
   “If I don’t get a job, I’ll go to grad school.”

✓ ...out of fear.
   “I don’t want to find a job. It’s too scary out there.”

✓ ...to postpone difficult decisions.
   “I don’t know what my career interests really are.”
Which Academic Program Should I Consider?

- Which institutions offer my desired program?
- Which do faculty recommend?
- Which do professionals in the field recommend?
- Which are accredited?
- Which are highly rated by national and/or professional reports?
Which Academic Program Should I Consider?

Evaluate the programs

- Admissions requirements
- Academic program emphasis
- Quality of faculty
- Quality of facilities
- Cost and financial aid
- Location and size
- Post-graduation employment
How Do I Apply for Graduate or Professional School?

**STEP ONE:**

- Research academic areas of interest, specific programs and institutions.
- Review print and web information on specific graduate or professional school programs.
- Determine where to apply. Consider 1-3 “Reach” programs, 1-4 “Probably” programs, and 1-3 “Safety” programs.
- Register and prepare for graduate admissions tests.
How Do I Apply for Graduate or Professional School?

Graduate Admissions Tests

• Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
  • Includes General Test and Subject Tests

• Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
  • Required for most Business and MBA programs

• Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
  • Assesses reading, reasoning and writing
How Do I Apply for Graduate or Professional School?

Graduate Admissions Tests

- **Miller Analogy Test (MAT)**
  - Uses verbal analogies to test reasoning ability. Sometimes used in lieu of GRE.

- **Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)**
  - Measures abilities in chemistry, physics, biology, reading, quantitative and analytical reasoning. Most take 18 months before entering medical school.
Grad School Test Prep Web Sites

http://www.ets.org/gre
Grad School Test Prep Web Sites

Graduate Admissions
LSAT - Law School
MCAT - Medical School
GMAT - Business School
GRE® - Graduate School
MAT - Graduate School
DAT - Dental School
PCAT - Pharmacy School
OAT - Optometry School

www.kaptest.com
Grad School Test Prep Web Sites

https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/
Grad School Test Prep Web Sites

Undergraduate Admissions Exams:
- SAT
- ACT

Graduate and Upper-Division Exam Programs:
- Miller’s Analogies Test (MAT)
- Graduate Records Exam (GRE) Subject Exams
- Law School Admissions Tests (LSAT)
- National League of Nursing pre-Admission Examination (NLN/PAX)

Testing Center Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Open the first Wednesday of every month from 8am-8pm
Email: testingcenter@ecu.edu
Mailing Address:
The Testing Center
Brewster D-102
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
Phone - (252) 328-6811
Fax - (252) 328-6211

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/testingcenter/index.cfm
How Do I Apply for Graduate or Professional School?

**STEP TWO:**

- Write for application materials.
- Note application deadlines and procedures.
- Visit campuses and programs of interest.
- Write application essay or statement of purpose.
- Take practice graduate admissions tests.
- Register for national application or data assembly service, if applicable.
STEP THREE: Senior Year, Fall

- Take appropriate graduate admissions test.
- Research financial aid sources, fellowships and assistantships.
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty.
- Send in completed applications.
How Do I Apply for Graduate or Professional School?

**Step Four: Senior Year, Spring**

- Order official transcripts from Registrar’s office with Fall grades.
- Register for GAPSFAS, if required.
- Discuss acceptances, rejections and other career options with faculty and The Career Center.
- Once accepted, submit deposit and registration material. Notify other programs of your enrollment decision.
- Send thank you notes to references, and inform them of your success.
Grad School Web Sites

http://www.princetonreview.com/graduate-school.aspx
Grad School Web Sites

http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools
Other Resources

http://www.ecu.edu/ppac/
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http://www.ecu.edu/career/
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Walk In Hours:
(when class in session)
Monday – Thursday
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Satellite Offices:
(hours vary)
Bate 2008
Bate 3021 (Business only)
Belk 3405
Brewster 209-A
Joyner East 205-C (Comm only)
Laupus Library 3508C
Rivers 137A
Rivers 140
Science & Technology 239
Speight 119
Ward 244A