Applying to Grad School

Considering Grad School

Research Your Prospective

• Talk with professors, graduate students, or other UCI staff
• Meet with people working in that industry or studying in that field
• Check out the Occupational Outlook Handbook by visiting www.bls.gov/ooh/
• Identify prospective schools and seek information on their programs. Check out the Peterson's Guide to Graduate and Professional Schools online at www.petersons.com

Evaluate the Various Graduate

• Department
  Certain institutions are known for particular programs. Check out the U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools online

• Faculty
  Research the reputation and areas of specialization of the faculty

• Program
  Each school has a different curriculum and philosophy. Make sure they meet your educational goals

• Facilities
  Find out about the libraries, laboratories, and research facilities. What is the depth of the library collection in your particular field of interest?

• Size
  There are advantages and disadvantages to both small and large universities

• Placement
  Where do graduates go after completing the program?

• Degree Requirements
  List all requirements such as residency, unit requirements, language requirements, examinations, candidacy, and thesis or dissertation

Prepare for the Admissions Process

• Complete Your Bachelor’s Degree

• Aim for a Minimum 3.0 GPA
  Some schools average your last two years of school, or the courses in your field of concentration

• 2-3 Letters of Recommendation
  Choose individuals who know you academically and/or professionally and will give you the best recommendation. The job title or status of that person does not usually matter; however, at least one reference should be a professor. Before asking for a recommendation, meet with your reference to discuss your career goals and inform them about the program(s)

• Statement of Purpose
  State why you are the most qualified to be in that particular program. This is a qualitative way to show your eligibility, not quantitative like GRE scores, transcripts, and grades

• Admission Tests
  In most cases, the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) will be required. Check with each school to identify the appropriate exam

• Application
  Read instructions carefully and meet all requirements and deadlines

Finance Your Education

• Fellowships - Given to students with the expectation that they will maintain and achieve good standing

• Loans - Explore school, private, and government options. Repayment of loans can vary

• Assistantships - You receive a monthly stipend for which you perform services related to your field

• Grants – Like fellowships, these are gifts to graduate students that do not have to be repaid

• Work-Study - This type of financial aid assists graduate students by providing job opportunities within the institution or in a public or non-profit agency for up to 20 hours per week