Considering Grad School

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 are graduates hired after completing the program?

- **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**
  Review 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**
  Read the prompt carefully. State why your aptitude, skills, values, and interests are aligned with the particular graduate 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

- **REVIEW** national scholarships, grants, and corresponding deadlines.

- **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