



Research Your Prospective

- **TALK WITH** professors, graduate students, or other UCI staff
- **MEET WITH** people working in that industry or studying in that field
- **UTILIZE** the Anteater Career Network (ACN) to connect with UCI alumni and conduct informational interviews about graduate school (career.uci.edu/alumni/the-anteater-network)
- **CHECK OUT** the Occupational Outlook Handbook (bls.gov/ooh)
- **IDENTIFY** prospective schools and seek information on their programs. Check out US News Rankings for Graduate School, Gradschools.com, and Petersons.com.



Evaluate the Various Graduate School Programs

- **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



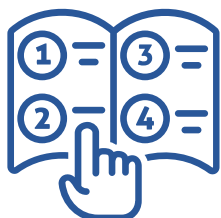


Prepare for the Admissions Process

- **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
- **ASSISTANTSHIPS**
You receive a monthly stipend for which you perform services related to your field
- **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
- **REVIEW** national scholarships, grants, and corresponding deadlines



SUBMIT

