Fall 2019 ENG 298 Seminar: Road Map to Graduate School

Time/Location: Wednesday from 11 to 11:50 am in 106B3 Engineering Hall

Contact Information

Professor Harry Dankowicz  
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Course Description

This seminar is designed to help guide undergraduate students to learn about the opportunities in graduate programs, how to choose the right program, and how to complete a competitive application for graduate school.

Textbook

- **Required:** Graduate School: Winning Strategies for Getting In, 2nd Edition. Dave G. Mumby, PhD.
- **Recommended:** Understanding Admissions: Getting into the Top Graduate School in Computer Science & Engineering. Ryan Lilien M.D., PhD and Ramgopal Mettu, PhD.

Class Outline

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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| August 28, 2019  | • Introductions  
                   • Overview  
                   • Things you need to know before applying to graduate school  
                   **Assignment:** Read chapters 1 & 2. Write a 1-page summary of your plans to prepare for graduate school. | Harry Dankowicz  
                                      Rhonda McElroy                                      |
| September 4, 2019| • Finding Research Opportunities as an Undergrad / REU Summer Programs  
                   **Assignment:** Read chapters 3-5. Write a summary on potential research opportunities you can participate in before you graduate and prepare one question to ask the current graduate student panel. | Tasha Mamaril                                           |
| September 11, 2019| • Why I Decided on Graduate School & What I wish I knew when Applying  
                   **Assignment:** Read chapters 6, 7, and 9. | Lana Stekovic  
                                       (TAM PhD),  
                                       Jonathan Osei-Owusu (CS MS),  
                                       and Sanjana Kartik (MEng in ES)                       |
| September 18, 2019| • The Application Process – deciding where to apply and preparing a competitive application  
                   **Assignment:** Identify 3 potential faculty to write letters of recommendations and prepare a draft of your personal statement. | Rhonda McElroy                                           |
| September 25, 2019| • How to Write a Strong Resume  
                   **Assignment:** Prepare a draft of your CV. | Kristina Wright                                           |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2, 2019</td>
<td>Job Opportunities at National Labs for students with advanced degrees</td>
<td>Amy Halloran, Sandia National Labs</td>
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<td>October 9, 2019</td>
<td>Funding Graduate School</td>
<td>Ken Vickery</td>
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<td>October 16, 2019</td>
<td>Starting off on the right foot in Graduate School</td>
<td>Rhonda McElroy</td>
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<td>Case Studies – Work in Small Groups to evaluate admission offers</td>
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<td>Final Assignment: Turn in complete Portfolio.  See Portfolio section below for details.</td>
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**Grading Policy**

Attendance is 80% and the portfolio is 20%. The amount of time required for this class will be approximately 2 hours per week between the readings and assignments. Two unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter grade; each additional absence will result in a drop in a letter grade.

**Portfolio**

**Portfolio:** Students must prepare a portfolio that consist of the following:

- Three universities you plan to apply to for graduate school – include the following for each university: the program, the application materials required, and the application deadline.
- Three potential faculty who could provide letters of recommendation.
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Timeline: when will you complete research opportunities, foster relationships with faculty for strong letters of recommendation, complete GRE exam, etc.