Road Map to Graduate School

Welcome!

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August 25, 2021
CLASS OUTCOMES

- Introductions
- Overview of course
- Things you need to know before applying to graduate school
Overview of Course

Required textbook – Graduate School: Winning Strategies for Getting In, 2nd edition. This book can be purchased at the Illini Bookstore.

Class attendance is very important as the class is designed around guest speakers and interactive in-class activities.

Course syllabus includes assignments for each week to allow you to plan ahead.

Goal is to help you prepare for graduate school and complete a competitive application for graduate admission.
In groups of 4, read through the case study you received to decide the following about the student:

• What strengths and weaknesses will the student present in their application?
• What recommendations would you give the student?
• Do you think the student will be admitted into the graduate program and why?
Things you need to know before applying to graduate school
Things you need to know before applying to graduate school

- What are your career goals and what level of education is required?
- What program do you want to complete – research- or professionally-oriented degree?
- Have you connected with faculty as an undergrad?
- Have you been involved in research, and do you enjoy it?
Myths about graduate school
Myths about Graduate School

Since my GPA is not high, I will not get into graduate school.

I have a high GPA so I will definitely be admitted into graduate school.

I cannot afford to spend 2+ more years to complete a graduate degree.
Facts about graduate school
Facts about Graduate School

GPA is only one factor out of many that are considered in the graduate admission process.

There are ways to fund your graduate education.
Before you apply
Before You Apply

1. Inform yourself about different graduate programs and their curriculum requirements.
2. Make a chart with all admission requirements for programs that interest you.
3. Visit with Graduate Program Coordinators and Directors to learn more about their programs.
4. Visit with current graduate students to get their perspective on graduate school.
5. Email faculty to learn more about their research, and to identify research opportunities that might interest you.
Before You Apply

Understand what qualities the program you are applying to is looking for when deciding on admission.

Determine the type of experience that may be required or highly recommended for admission, e.g., undergraduate research experience, internship, leadership within a student organization.
Start today by researching the graduate program opportunities that are available to you and that fit your educational and career goals.
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