

CHOOSE A GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Develop a list of at least twenty schools that offer your program of choice.

Find programs:

Ask practicing professionals, family and friends, meet with a Career Counselor

Check authors' school affiliations in professional journals

Speak with professors (Where did they train? Which schools do they regard highly?)

Use search engines:

Peterson's (petersons.com)

PhDs.org (graduate-school.phds.org)

U.S. News (usnews.com/education, grad school)

Princeton Review (princetonreview.com)

Education Dynamics (gradschools.com)

Assoc. of American Medical Colleges (www.aamc.org)

Narrow program/ school choices based on quality and assess how each aligns with your goals.

Review faculty and their research interests, admissions criteria, and return on investment:

Research the program's average GPA and test scores for enrolled students, jobs taken after graduation, financial support for the program, library collections, research/other facilities.

Explore program and curriculum services: Is it accredited? Are there job search/advising services? What is the student-to-faculty ratio? Are internships, assistantships, and other experiential education opportunities available?

Consider finances and sources of aid: Do not reject a school because it is expensive until you have learned what financial aid it can offer. Graduate assistantship appointments are based on academic qualifications and made by department heads. (Research assistantships are rarely offered to first-year graduate students.) Grants, fellowships, and assistantships are very competitive, so apply early.

Organize: Finalize a list of six to twelve schools based on fit for you, with two or three reach schools (very difficult to get in), two to five probably-maybe schools (average chance for acceptance), and two to four safer schools (better chance to be accepted).