



## Choosing Graduate School Programs

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### RESEARCH

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- Talk to professors (Where did they train? What schools do they regard highly?)
- Meet with a Career Counselor to discuss graduate school options
- Network with practicing professionals, family, and peers
- Notice the authors' school affiliations in professional journals
- Use search engines:
  - Peterson's ([petersons.com](http://petersons.com))
  - Education Dynamics ([gradschools.com](http://gradschools.com))
  - PhDs.org ([phds.org](http://phds.org))
  - U.S. News ([usnews.com/education](http://usnews.com/education), grad school)
  - Princeton Review ([princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com))
  - College Niche ([niche.com](http://niche.com))
  - Association of American Medical Colleges ([aamc.org](http://aamc.org))
  - Law School Admission Council ([lsac.org](http://lsac.org))

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### AREAS TO CONSIDER

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#### Admission Criteria

- Research average GPA and test scores of accepted students
- Determine reach schools (requirements slightly higher), target schools (likely to be accepted), and safety schools (most likely to be accepted)

#### Programs and Concentrations

- Review faculty, their research interests and backgrounds
- Is the program accredited?
- Consider research/other facilities and library collections available to students
- What is the program duration?
- Are experiential learning opportunities, internships, etc. available?
- What types of positions do graduates of the program take?

#### Size and Location

- What is the faculty-to-student ratio?
- What are housing options like?
- What do current students/alumni say about the program and campus?

#### Cost

- Consider the cost difference between private and public institutions; one program may be more expensive, but may also offer more aid
- Finance graduate school by securing grants and fellowships
- Graduate students have access to financial aid as well as federal and private loan options
- Does this program offer assistantships (graduate/research/teaching)? How do you apply?