Helping Students Prepare

Dr. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska
Dean of the Graduate School

Erin C. Fox
Assistant Dean of Graduate Education
Considering Graduate School
Today’s MS degree = the BS degree of 10 or 20 years ago

Should go immediately following undergraduate studies or after some work experience?

- In the mode for studying and learning – life will get in the way...
- BUT, real-world experience in the field is of value
- Some employers may provide tuition remission
- We encourage prospective graduate students to speak to their professors and adviser
Other things to consider...

- What field is right for your students?
- Which degree? What degree will be required in that field?
- When looking into colleges and universities – what are their terminal degrees?
- If student would like to go from their bachelor’s degree to a PhD degree program, find out if it requires a master’s degree first?
Other things to consider...

- What research is being done in the department? Does this match the student’s interests? Look at specific professors doing specific research.

- What is the placement rate for that department?

- How many credits are required to complete the degree?

- What is that program’s average time to completion attending full or part time?
Applying
When should your students begin the application process?

- Start thinking a year prior

- Check out the application deadline which will vary from program to program

- What standardized exams are required for the program? This will include time to prepare/study, take the test and report the scores
Application Requirements
What are the application requirements?

- Application and application fee ($56)

- Statement of purpose
  - Extremely important way for the student to set themselves apart, and display their passion for the field. **Make sure to have the statement reviewed by others. Its WHAT you say, AND HOW you say it.**

- GRE or GMAT tests (or LSAT, MCAT, MAT, etc.)
  - Practice tests available online.
  - May take up to six weeks for the scores to be reported.
  - Have tests scores sent directly to the school (save time)
Applying to Graduate Programs

Letters of recommendation – Often 2-3 requested. Recommend students select faculty members who know (and like) them.
- Give them plenty of time to respond.
- Provide a copy of resume and a brief bio to jog their memory.
- Make it easy for them (faculty are requested to do a lot of letters).

Official/unofficial transcripts directly from issuing college/university
Application requirements

- The data is available online and varies from program to program. Student should do the research to get the answers.

- Know the deadlines and meet them.

- Track application requirements. Make sure ap reqs arrived as planned.
How long will it take to hear a decision?

The answer depends on –

- How the program chooses to review the applications
- What deadlines the program has established
- The start date for the new program

In a centralized graduate school arrangement, as in UWM, the program sends its recommendation for admission to the Graduate School.
Any questions?

- Erin C. Fox
  foxe@uwm.edu

UWM’s Graduate School
Mitchell Hall, 261
414-229-6569
gradschool@uwm.edu

- http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/
- http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/contact-us/directory/