

Graduate School

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Why Graduate School?



- The ability to specialize, become an expert in your field
- Higher lifetime earnings potential, promoted further and faster
- Intellectual satisfaction - solve real world problems

Graduate School Options



- Might not be Electrical or Computer Engineering - many people go into Law or Management for graduate degree
- Preparation and planning is largely the same for any graduate program
- Consider how a graduate degree ties in with your future career goals

If funded



- You can afford to do your masters if you have the good fortune to be funded.
- Almost without exception, PhD students are funded.

Financial Example – 1/2



- Tuition – Spring 2020
½ Graduate level, in state
\$3123.50 plus fees
- Assistantship
\$1890/month for 5 months
½ time work as TA or RA (20 hrs/week)
- Can defer undergraduate loans

Financial Example – 1/4



- Tuition – Spring 2020
 - ¼ Graduate level, in-state
 - \$4685.25 plus fees
- Assistantship
 - \$945/month for 5 months
 - ¼ time work as TA or RA (10 hrs/week)
- Can defer undergraduate loans

Create Statement of Purpose



- 1) What areas of research interest you?
- 2) Have you had any personal contact with departmental faculty?
- 3) Recognition for special skills or past achievements?
- 4) Relevant work experience?
- 5) Career you hope to pursue?

References



- Total of 3 references
- At least 2 faculty references
- One might be a supervisor
- Sent to me: vlthorl@iastate.edu

Senior Year



- September of SR year meet with faculty members to discuss your statement of purpose and ask for letters of recommendation
- Important to ask the right people and manage the process
- Don't hound, but check to make certain your references aren't holding up your application

Senior Year Cont'd



- Sign up for standardized tests such as GRE or LSAT for Law GMAT for MBA
- Make a calendar of deadlines for the schools to which you're applying

Now it's time to apply



- Complete applications - do draft first, most available on the web
- Have e-mails of references handy

How Application will be Evaluated



- GRE scores
- Statement of purpose/personal essay
- Grade Point Average, major and out - of - major
- Recommendation letters

How Admission Process Works



- Applications materials come in
- Recognize that your application is likely one of hundreds
- When all materials in, the application is reviewed by a committee, Director of Graduate Education, or Admissions specialist

The Waiting Game



- In many top level programs, students must be matched with the research needs of the faculty
- Expect a notification either way
- It's okay to follow up with the school and check the status of your application

How to Evaluate Offers



- Stipends, what are they and what do they typically mean?
- RA versus TA
- Fellowships, check on whether or not they are renewable
- What progress do you have to maintain to keep your support?

Consider BS/MS (Concurrent)



- Eligible All undergrads (EE/Cpr E/SE)
- 3.3 gpa
- Double count 6 credits (grad and undergrad)

Credit rules



- Possibility to use 9 credits that weren't used on your degree audit for undergrad (meet with me to see if we can do that)
- Also, you can use up to 9 credits as 300/400 level (don't have to have all 500/600 level classes)
 - 1- 300 level (not EE/Cpr E/SE)
 - 2 – 400 level OR 3-400 level

Concurrent Application



- https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/common/forms/files/Application_for_an_ISU_Undergraduate_Student_Wishing_to_Pursue_a_Concurrent_Graduate_Certificate_or

For further information



- Contact Vicky Thorland-Oster, Manager
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