"How To Prepare For Graduate School"

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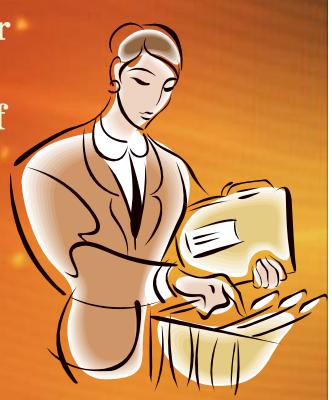
Dereck J. Rovaris, Sr., Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor
LSU Health Sciences Center
ACE Fellow 2008-09



- Graduate school training is fast becoming an entry level requirement
- A masters or doctoral degree can increase opportunities and provide career flexibility
- "Open doors" with which we are familiar
- It can help identify doors that prior to the journey were never imagined
- Address the critical shortage of persons with advanced degrees

How Do I Prepare?

- Make good grades
- Talk with faculty and others in your field of interest
- Search your heart and make sure of your choice
- Explore graduate options (via websites, Petersons,...)
- Conduct research (SROP, REUs, MARC...)



When Do I Prepare?

- It's never too early to start thinking about graduate school
- As freshmen and sophomores take courses that lead to graduate study
- Conduct research as soon as you can
- Talk with people who do what it is you want to do
- Take the GRE at the end of your junior year
- Complete applications at the start of your senior year



How Do I Apply?

- 1. create a list of potential schools
- 2. visit graduate programs
- 3. register, practice, and then take the GRE;
- 4. ask faculty members for letters of recommendation;
- 5. write a statement of purpose and have it critiqued;
- 6. complete and submit applications for admission and financial support



Funding Options

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Fellowships

- Stipend awarded based on academic merit; does not have a work requirement; apply early in senior year

Types: (external) NSF, Fulbright, Mellon, ...

(internal) Offered by Graduate Program

Assistantships

- Stipend awarded based on need/merit; work required; Types: Research, Teaching, and Graduate

Tuition waivers

- awarded based on need/merit; usually accompanies internal fellowships and assistantships



- Coursework (1-3 years) (major area, stats, methods)
- Qualifying Exams (tested over major coursework)
- Research (can be conducted throughout program)
- Thesis/Dissertation (original research presentation)
 - committee formed of faculty who guide your research
 - preliminary exam first couple of chapters of dissertation presented for approval to continue work on dissertation
 - final defense dissertation presented to committee and defended

How to Write a Good Statement of Purpose

A good statement will be:

- concise say what you have to as efficiently as possible; most are limited to 1 1 1/2 pages
- organized your essay should be well thought out and structured; work from an outline;
- clear it should say exactly what you want it to say; no ambiguity; no grammatical errors; no contractions
- honest do not pretend to be who you are not; but, do not sell yourself short, either
- personal this is uniquely yours, it is a statement about you; write about you; avoid using too many personal pronouns "I"s
- positive sell yourself using positive attributes; do not dwell on negatives like low grades

How to Write a Good Statement of Purpose (cont.)

A good statement will include:

- What you have done to prepare for graduate school (i.e. research, work in the field, publications)
- With whom do you want to study and why (identify faculty who are conducting research in your area of interest)
- How you plan to utilize your graduate degree upon completion of graduate school

Graduate School Is More Than Just A Good Idea...



...It's A Chance To Determine Your Future!

Thank You! May God Bless Your Future!

Dereck J. Rovaris, Sr., Ph.D.