

Applying To Graduate And Professional Schools

Assess Your Reasons for Attending

If you need an advanced degree to pursue the career of your choice or you have a strong personal desire to specialize in a particular discipline, then your decision is probably a wise one.

Assemble A List of Schools - Names, Addresses and Contacts

The Peterson's Guides to Graduate and Professional Programs (a 6 volume set) is available in the Career Resource Library at the Career Center. You may access a variety of grad school resources, including Petersons.com, GradSchools.com and GradSource.com from the Career Center's website: <http://www.umaine.edu/career/studentsalumni/graduate-school-resources/>.

Research the Programs in Your Field

- Consult with professors or advisors in your field.
- Talk to graduate students in your discipline.
- Find related journals and note where researchers in your area of interest are teaching.
- Consider the strengths of the department rather than the quality of the overall institution.
- Read literature put out by the school and the programs that interest you. Most graduate programs have complete information available on their school's website. Some materials and bulletins are available in the Career Library.
- Letters or emails may be written to admissions officers requesting applications, catalogs, further information and percentage of applicants accepted.

Explore Financial Aid

- Read and complete the school's financial aid application and requirements early. (Financial aid deadlines are often at least a month earlier than regular admission deadlines).
- For basic financial aid definitions and resources refer to Peterson's Guide to Graduate and Professional Programs: An Overview.
- For more extensive information on public and private funding consult the books "Free Money for Graduate School" and "Getting Money for Graduate School" available in our Career Resource Library. Also, check the following websites: www.finaid.org and usnews.com/sections/education/paying-for-college.

Read Admissions Criteria and Deadlines Carefully

Some medical schools have deadlines as early as the summer before your senior year, while other schools may accept applications as late as the summer before matriculation. It is best to apply early.

Take Any Required Admissions Tests

Information about taking the GRE, LSAT, MAT, GMAT, and others is available at the Career Center. Most graduate admissions tests are administered through the Prometric Testing Center, 1460 Outer Hammond St., Bangor, ME 04401. Call 947-1234 or go to www.prometric.com for more information. The GMAT is given at the Pearson Test Center in Bangor; go to www.mba.com to register. Graduate School Test Prep courses are offered to UMaine students at a discount by Kaplan; these are "Live Online Test Prep" options. For more information, contact the Career Center.

Be Considerate of Your References

Ask them to write the letters in advance and provide them with supporting materials about you and the programs you are applying for (e.g. your application essay, transcript, resume, etc.)

Visit the Campus - If at all possible and talk with faculty and students in your program. Treat the interview as you would any employment interview - be prepared and dress appropriately.

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