To Be or Not To Be

Graduate & Professional School Edition

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Agenda

Undergraduate vs. graduate education

Common myths

Types of degrees

Program considerations

Application pieces

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What You'll Learn Today
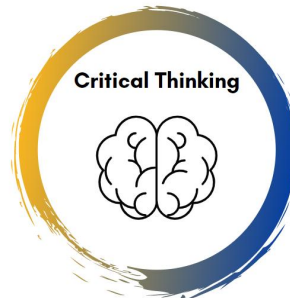
At the end of this workshop, you will be able to...

Identify factors that determine if graduate school is necessary
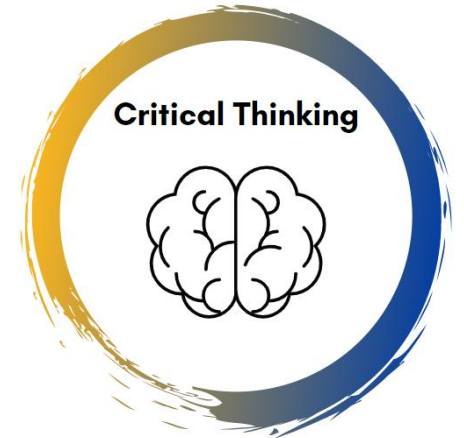
List different considerations when choosing a program

Name the application pieces

Career & Self-Development

Critical Thinking

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Teamwork

LEADERSHIP

Equity & Inclusion

Technology

Professionalism

Critical Thinking

NACE CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES

Communication

*Obtaining **requisite competencies** that broadly prepare college graduates for a **successful transition** into the workplace.*

Career & Self-Development

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College *vs.* Grad School: What's the difference?

Undergraduate vs. Graduate Education

Scope of study
Expertise Level
Output/deliverables expected upon graduation

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Common Myths

Common myths

Jobs in the sciences and psychology require advanced degrees

Advanced degrees mean a higher salary

Grad school will give me time to explore careers

Types of Degrees

Types of Degrees

Master-Level

- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Doctoral (academic and professional)

- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Doctor of Medicine (MD)
- Juris Doctor (JD)
- PharmD

Others

- Certificates
- Post-doctoral
- Combination (MD/PhD or MBA/JD)

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Post-baccalaureate programs

What are they?

Great for…
- Career changers
- Improving academic standing before applying to grad programs
- Preparing to earn a second bachelor's degree

Considerations…
- Programs are not equal to graduate education, but are more advanced than a bachelor's degree
- Can be used to take pre-requisites for graduate or professional programs
- Typically 8-12 months

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Program Considerations

What to consider when choosing a program

Program considerations

How to search for programs

Grad school websites

Rankings

Accreditation

Program considerations

Cohort Model

Course structure
Highly structured
Fewer electives

Peer networking
Strong network with peers
Limits external interaction

Time structured
Standardized time frame
Not flexible

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Program considerations

Research vs. Applied

Emphasis
Theory
Practice

Faculty Relationship
Advisor
Mentor

Final Project
Thesis/Dissertation
Exam/Portfolio/Practicum

Program considerations

Online or on-campus

Discussions
In-class

Online boards/forums

Access to resources
In-person office hours and services

Online/remote options

Online considerations
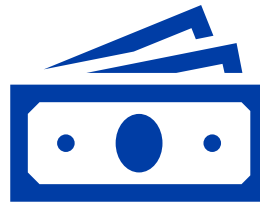Flexibility

Motivation

Study space

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Program considerations

Financial Aid

Institutional Funding
Teaching Assistant
Graduate Assistant
Research Assistant
Fellowship

Scholarships
Merit-based
Need-based

Loans
Unsubsidized

Application Pieces

Transcripts

Official

Unofficial

Leave enough time to mail

Application

Institutional

Program-Specific

Fees (program and institutional)

Exams

Find your best study method

Schedule early enough to allow for scoring

Fees to take and to send scores

Personal Statements

Share motivation and preparation

Ask admissions representatives questions

Highlight unique qualities and career goals

Use the ARC

Letters of Recommendation

Ask several weeks in advance

Provide resume and highlights

Writers should speak to academic preparedness and/or professional competence

Staying Organized

Staying organized

Find a way to track your program research, application materials, and status that works best for you

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Join the UCR Career Network, an online community for networking, mentoring, and job opportunities for alumni and students.

MENTORING

Matching process that connects current students with alumni or alumni with one another.

JOB SEARCH

Job board for those currently seeking employment or for alumni looking to hire other Highlanders.

NETWORKING

Discussion boards to meet and network with others who have similar career questions.

REGISTER AT CAREERNETWORK.UCR.EDU

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Questions?

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Location: We are located in the Career Center Plaza. Our entrance is the University Lecture Hall and the Surge Building, behind the UCR Campus Store.

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5 pm
except Wed. 9 am to 5 pm

Individual counseling appointments available
Schedule on Handshake

Express Career Advising Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 10 am-3pm
Fri. 10 am-12 pm

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