To Be or Not To Be
Graduate & Professional School Edition
Agenda

Undergraduate vs. graduate education

Common myths

Types of degrees

Program considerations

Application pieces
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
NACE CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES

Obtaining requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.
Undergraduate vs. Graduate Education

Scope of study
Expertise Level
Output/deliverables expected upon graduation
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)
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
Program Considerations
What to consider when choosing a program

- Quality
- Prestige
- Faculty
- Research
- Location
- Cost
- Other...
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
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
Program considerations
Financial Aid

Institutional Funding
- Teaching Assistant
- Graduate Assistant
- Research Assistant
- Fellowship

Scholarships
- Merit-based
- Need-based

Loans
- Unsubsidized
Application Pieces
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcripts</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>Find your best study method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial</td>
<td>Program-Specific</td>
<td>Schedule early enough to allow for scoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leave enough time to mail</td>
<td>Fees (program and institutional)</td>
<td>Fees to take and to send scores</td>
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<th>Personal Statements</th>
<th>Letters of Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Share motivation and preparation</td>
<td>Ask several weeks in advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask admissions representatives questions</td>
<td>Provide resume and highlights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlight unique qualities and career goals</td>
<td>Writers should speak to academic preparedness and/or professional competence</td>
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<td>Use the ARC</td>
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Staying Organized
Staying organized

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