Important Items

• **Mentor Follow-up through:** e-mail, phone call, in person one-on-one etc.

• **Workshop passport. Make sure to attend at least 3 of our workshops or you can meet with us to go over certain topics of interest**

• **Informational Interview with a desired Professional. Make sure to meet up with a professional to discuss the daily tasks, educational background and experience**

• **LinkedIn Profile**
Agenda

1. Undergraduate vs Graduate Education
2. Common Myths
3. Types of Degrees
4. Program Considerations
5. Application Pieces
Undergrad vs. Grad
Undergrad...
- Learner (Novice)
- Broad Foundation
- Externally Directed
- Passive Learner

Graduate/Professional...
- Colleague to Expert
- Development of Specialty
- Self-Directed
- Active Learner & Creator
Common Myths
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myths</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs in the sciences or psychology require advanced degrees</td>
<td>Consider long term career goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>While many fields require advanced degrees, most do not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many opportunities exist for those with undergraduate training only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Myths

The more education I have, the more money I can make once I have a job.

Consider the cost of attending graduate school vs. the lost income potential

Education + Experience = Earning Potential

Not all graduate degrees directly correlate to a higher salary
Myths

I’m not ready to find a job, but I’ve done well in school. I’ll go to grad school until I’m confident about the job market.

Graduate school is not meant to replace your job search

An advanced degree without practical experience may undermine your career success

An advanced degree may result in being overqualified for jobs of interest
Types of Degrees
Types of Degrees

**Master-Level**
- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)

**Doctoral (Academic and Professional)**
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Juris Doctor (JD)

**Others**
- Certificates
- Post-doctoral
- Combination (MD/PhD or MBA/JD)
Post-Baccalaureate Programs

Have a bachelor’s degree but want to...

.... improve academic standing for graduate/professional school?

.... change your career?

.... earn a second bachelor’s degree?

A Post-Baccalaureate program may be for you
Post-Bac Programs are...

- Not considered traditional graduate education, but are more advanced than a bachelor’s degree
- An option to take pre-requisite courses for graduate or professional programs
- Typically eight to 12 months in length
Program Considerations
Choosing a Program

- Quality Prestige
- Faculty Research
- Cost
- Location
- Other...
Program Considerations

Finding programs

- Peterson's
- U.S. News & World Report
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
**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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emphasis</th>
<th>Area of Study</th>
<th>Faculty Relationship</th>
<th>Final Project</th>
<th>Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>Specific</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>Thesis/Dissertation</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Broad</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
<td>Exam/Portfolio/Practicum</td>
<td>Cohort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research or Applied Programs**
Program Considerations

Campus
- In class discussions
- Access to faculty/peers
- Access to campus services
- Financial aid options

Online
- Online forums
- Flexibility
- Self-motivated
- Study space
Program Considerations

Questions to ask yourself:

What are my career goals after graduation?

What kind of relationship do I want with my peers?

What is my work-style like?
## Program Considerations

### Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutional Funding</th>
<th>Scholarships</th>
<th>Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>• Merit-based</td>
<td>• Subsidized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graduate Assistant</td>
<td>• Need-based</td>
<td>• Unsubsidized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research Assistant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

21
Application Pieces
General Application Pieces

- Resume
- Transcripts
- Exam Scores
- Personal Statement
- Letters of Recommendation
Transcripts
Official
Unofficial
Leave enough time to mail

Application
Institutional
Program-Specific

Exams
Find your best study method
Schedule early enough to allow for scoring

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
Find a way to keep track of your program research or application status that works for you.

Stay organized
Choosing a Program

- Yellow Ribbon Program Information
- Accrediting Bodies
- Petersons.com
- Gradschools.com
- Quality/Prestige
- Cost
- Location
- Faculty/Research
- Other...
Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5 pm
except Wed. 9 am to 5 pm

Drop-In Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 10 am-3pm
Fri. 10 am-12 pm