Career Development

• Programs/Resources
  ▫ Web resources, career management system, webinars, programs, career fairs, individual career advising (in-person and remotely).
  ▫ www.go.osu.edu/AlumniCareerManagement

• Career Changes:
  ▫ Launching
  ▫ Transition
  ▫ Underemployment
  ▫ Unemployment
  ▫ Encore Career

• A Lifelong Process:
  ▫ Assessment
  ▫ Exploration/Research
  ▫ Personal Branding
  ▫ Networking/Job Search
  ▫ Professional Development
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Crafting A Winning Application

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Why are you considering graduate school?

- ENHANCED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- INCREASED EARNINGS
- INFLUENCE HOW WE UNDERSTAND OUR WORLD
How is graduate school different than undergrad?

- MORE FOCUSED
- MORE INTENSE
- MORE EXPENSIVE
- MORE INDIVIDUALIZED
How do you decide where to apply?

- Make sure the program has direction, faculty, and courses relevant to your goals
- Reach for the stars, and have a back up plan
How many programs should you apply to?

- Know your budget
- Ask for application fee waivers from any institution
- For Big Ten programs, request a CIC FreeApp

CIC.UIUC.EDU
To be successful, you need to take initiative.

- Do your research
- Show your motivation
- Your application is you—on screen and on paper
- Make sure your materials reflect who you are and what you bring to the program
Is the graduate school admissions process different?

- Yes
- More selective
- Standards are higher
- You are evaluated by a faculty committee in your desired program
What do I need to provide?

- Application form
- Statement of purpose
- Letters of recommendation from faculty
- Transcripts
- Test scores
- Supplemental material
How are test scores used?

- Test scores are just one piece of portrait painted by your application
- Test scores can level the playing field
- Know what score your programs are looking for
- Put effort into preparing for the test
What is the selection criteria?

The committee will do a whole-file review of your application

- Grades
- Test scores
- Academic and non-academic experiences
- Motivation
- Fit between your interests and program’s areas of expertise
- Desired cohort size
What about recommendation letters?

• What function do recommendation letters serve?
• Who should you ask?
• How should you make this request?
• Yes, you can ask a recommender for multiple letters
What is the protocol for asking for a letter?

• Start early and don’t blindside people
• Have an actual conversation
• Provide them with everything they need (resume, statement of intent, transcripts, details of research experiences)
What are statements of intent?

- Window into who you are and what you will contribute
- Make sure you know what the program offers and what you will contribute
Statement: what to do and what not to do.

- Don’t get too personal
- Don’t name drop
- Don’t write more than what’s asked for
- Fill in gaps about your academic record
- Get lots of feedback on drafts
- Proofread, proofread, proofread
What should I ask the program about?

- Average time to degree
- Financial support
- Attrition rates
- Completion rates
- A visit to campus as a prospective student
What should I ask current students about?

- How long does program really take?
- What is the experience like?
- How is the advising?
- Is there any mentoring going on?
Pay attention to your own observations.

- What are the demographics of the faculty and student body?
- What is the climate for the entire spectrum of human diversity?
- Do students really seem to want to be there?
- Can you see yourself with them?
How do I decide which offer to accept?

- Make sure you are comparing apples to apples, especially with funding packages
- Research what it would be like to live and learn at each school
- Pay attention to quality of life
What if I have more questions?

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