

# Researching Process for Grad Schools

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## **Make a list of what you're looking for in a graduate program and what you'd like to do with a master's or doctoral degree**

Remember that attending graduate school should lead you toward your ultimate career goal. Determine which degree will be most beneficial for you in your career growth. If you are having trouble narrowing down your graduate school options, make an appointment with a career counselor at DSU Career Services. You can reach us by calling 435-652-7669.

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## **Look at general information about graduate schools online**

<http://www.princetonreview.com/>

[http://www.mycareerblast.com/my\\_grad\\_school.html](http://www.mycareerblast.com/my_grad_school.html)

[http://www.gradview.com/articles/graduatestudies/the\\_right\\_school.html](http://www.gradview.com/articles/graduatestudies/the_right_school.html)

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## **Create a list of potential schools/programs**

- Look at graduate school databases online:

<http://www.gradschools.com/>

<http://www.petersons.com/>

<http://www.rileyguide.com/train.html#prep>

<http://www.rileyguide.com/train.html#guides>

- Look at graduate school options abroad:

<http://international.gradschools.com/>

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## **Research and compare your options**

- Time commitment (e.g. 2 year program vs. 4 year program)
- Part-time vs. full-time programs
- Private vs. public institutions
- Entrance requirements including undergraduate prerequisites for specific programs
- Program approaches/specializations
- Faculty and teaching methods
- Program reputation/accreditation
- Placement success of program graduates
- Tuition costs and financial aid available
- Housing/living expenses

### **Possible Research Criteria**

What have faculty members published recently? (Compare professors' interests to your own)

How many faculty members does the department have? (You are checking for faculty to student ratio)

What characteristics distinguish this program from others in the same field?

What is the relative importance of admissions test scores, undergraduate grades, recommendations, Internships, and research? Is this a safety, mid-range, or reach school for me?

Does the department prefer applicants immediately out of undergraduate programs or do they prefer some work experience?

What types of financial aid are offered? Are assistantships or fellowships available? What types?

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### **Use your research to choose 5-10 program possibilities, and narrow your list**

- Consult with your professors, DSU Alumni, and professionals in the field to discuss Program highlights and their experiences in graduate school.
- Plan campus visits, and schedule meetings with program faculty members or current students who can answer your questions.