

Grad School Comparison Criteria

You will be the final arbiter of what grad school criteria are most important to you, but this is a good place to start! You'll need to decide what works best for you.

Academics

Program reputation
Research opportunities
Mentoring opportunities

Class formats
School and program accreditation
Length of program (full vs. part time)

Student-faculty ratio
Average class size

Admissions

Application deadlines
Admission requirements: test scores
Admission requirements: GPA

Admission requirements: Interview
Possibility of waitlist

Responsiveness and friendliness of admission staff

Costs

Tuition cost for one year
Total cost for one year

Projected total program cost
Financial aid availability

Application fees
Graduate Assistantships/Fellowships

General

Location/distance from-home if commuting
Number of students at institution/program
Condition of facilities
Housing options

Extracurricular opportunities
Career services/employment placement statistics
Overall school rank/Program rank
Perception during campus visits/admission events

Interaction with current students, alumni and faculty
Usefulness of website/materials/brochures