



O'NEILL CAREER HUB

How to Search for Graduate Programs

The O'Neill Career Hub has created this resource to guide you through your graduate school search.

1. Pull up the [Graduate Program Search Workbook](#) on your computer.
2. Before researching, list *at least 15 schools* that you might want to apply to in the “Research” spreadsheet.
3. After you have a list, start researching the following topics for each school:
 - a. Does the school have the program/degree you are looking for?
 - b. What is the total cost of the degree program?
 - c. What is their acceptance rate?
 - d. Do they offer assistantships? If so, how many?
 - e. What is their job placement rate?
 - f. What do your professors have to say about the school?
 - g. Does the graduate program have any leading scholars/faculty in your interested field?
 - h. Where is it located?
 - i. Is it an in-person, hybrid, or virtual program?
 - j. Do the school's values align with yours? Does their program align with your passions?
 - k. What is the Graduate Admissions Office's contact information?
4. Reorganize your schools and list them in the appropriate category based on your research, abilities, and goals (you can have as many schools as you want in each category):
 - a. **Tier 1**
 - i. May have lower acceptance rates and might be more competitive to get in
 - b. **Tier 2**
 - i. May have average acceptance rates and you are fairly certain you will get in
 - c. **Tier 3**
 - i. May have higher acceptance rates and you are certain you will get in
5. Identify the schools you consider to be your Top 5 depending on your goals and abilities. We recommend having a variety of Tier 1, 2, and 3 schools listed. Copy and paste your Top 5 schools into the “Deadlines” spreadsheet.
6. Fill out the corresponding columns with the deadlines for each school's application materials.