

GRADUATE SCHOOL SELECTION GUIDE

Applying to graduate school is a big decision that requires a lot of thought and consideration. Use this guide to help you evaluate different graduate schools and decide which programs are right for you based on your individual needs and academic goals.

FINDING PROGRAMS

Graduate school programs tend to be highly specialized and vary greatly across different colleges. Because of this, it is extremely important to do thorough research and find programs to apply to that are a great fit for you. The following resources can be helpful in researching graduate programs:



GRAD SCHOOL MATCH

The site gradschoolmatch.com will take all your criteria (including location, focus, test scores and more) and provide a list of programs that match your criteria.



LINKEDIN

Visit LinkedIn and look up companies and careers that interest you. What graduate programs did individuals who work for these companies and have your career of interest attend? This will give you a good idea of the kinds of programs that will help you get where you want to go.



GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIRS

Every fall, the Fleishman Center hosts a Graduate and Professional Schools Fair. Attend this event to connect with representatives from graduate schools and learn more about different programs and discover new schools you may have not yet considered.



JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS

Many scholarly articles and research publications are associated with a univeristy. Look into your field of interest and find articles that sound like research you might want to work on. The schools where this research took place will likely have labs and research programs that will be of great interest to you.



FACULTY

Binghamton faculty are all experts in their fields. Schedule a meeting with a faculty member in your area of interest and talk to them about your academic goals. They will likely know of a few schools or programs that match your interests!

PLANNING AND APPLYING

Graduate school applications are more costly and time consuming than undergraduate applications. You should consider each school carefully and only apply to programs that are a good fit for you to maximize your time and resources. Use this table to decide which programs to apply to.

Category:	PROGRAM TITLE & SCHOOL	APPLICATION DEADLINE	EXPENSE	ACCEPTANCE RATE	LOCATION	FACILITIES & RESOURCES	CURRICULUM & FACULTY	DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOMES	INTERNSHIPS OR PRACTICALS/CLINICALS
Things to consider:	 Have you connected with the faculty/graduate students in those programs to get a further insight into the experience? 	• Do they have rolling admission?		 How confident are you about being accepted? Do you have a range of applications between programs you feel very confident getting into and those that may be a reach? 	 Is the geographic location of the school consistent with the lifestyle you want for the next few years? What is the cost of living in the area? Is there campus housing available for grad students? 	 How extensive are their resources? Are there specialized research facilities? 	 Does the focus of the curriculum suit your career goals? Are the concentrations/ specializations offered interesting to you? What is the faculty/student ratio? Are there faculty members with specialties/research interests that interest you? 	 What are the demographics of the student body (average entering age, diversity, etc.)? What is the graduation rate? What types of positions have recent graduates obtained? What types of services are available to help assist graduate students with their job search? 	• Does the program require any practical experience? If so, is there any help in securing it?
Sample:	Mental Health Counselor pro- gram at Baxter University	Nov. 17 prioirty deadline	\$60k/year, grad assistantships available	54% I am pretty sure I can get in	Baxterland (not where I want to end up but I wouldn't mind being here for 2 years)	Need to research more	They have the research focus area that I am really interested in and I like the small size	Graduation rate: 89% Alumni on Linkedin have careers that interest me	Experiential Experience re- quired in last semester
Programs of interest:									

ASSESSING MULTIPLE OFFERS

Once you have applied and heard back from the different schools, it is time to assess the programs you have been accepted to and make a decision on which is the best fit.

MY TOP PRO A. B. C.	C		
PROGRAM C			
EXPENSE (INCLUDING AID)			
LOCATION			
FACILITIES & RESOURCES			
CURRICULUM & FACULTY			
DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOMES			
INTERNSHIPS, PRACTICALS & CLINICALS			