Make a List of "Schools of Interest"

Finding the right graduate program and school is an important task, and one that takes time. There are many variables to consider and resources to browse. Take a look at the list below for suggestions for finding schools.

Faculty and Staff: Make a point to develop a relationship with people at Stockton University who work in your area of interest. Find out where they went to graduate school and their opinions on other programs.

Your entors/Role odels: Pay close attention to where the people you consider to be career role models went to school. As you read articles, books, watch interviews, etc., find out where the people whose work you admire went to resources can be quite helpful!

 radSchools.com, Petersons.com: These websites, and others, are great tools to find programs that you might not be aware of otherwise. You can search by type of program and geographic area. From there you can access the university website and get more information about the program.

Blogs: The internet is a resource for blogs with information about graduate school. Some bloggers write specifically about their school/program and others are more general. If you are interested in reading about one
might be a good resource for you. However, keep in mind that blogs can be very biased and opinionated. Be cautious about forming your own opinion solely on what you read in a blog.

 eographic ocation: If you know where you want to live when it is time to start your career, it can be advantageous to go to graduate school in that geographic area as well. Ties that you develop there could lead to jobs in the area. Do some research and see if there are any schools that match your criteria.

Narrow Your List

It is likely that you have a pretty lengthy list of schools that look interesting. Here are some suggestions for how to narrow the list down to 6-12 target schools. Here are some components to consider:

Faculty: Does the faculty conduct research in areas that interest you? Are they well known in their disciplines? Are they concerned about and accessible to students? What is the student-faculty ratio? Have they published lately? Make sure that you visit the campus and meet with faculty members in your department.

Reputation: Is the program/institution nationally recognized and/or accredited? Talk to professors who teach similar undergraduate courses and ask them for any insight into the schools that interest you.

Program of Study: What emphasis does the program use? Theory? Research? Case Study? How many students are enrolled in the program? What is the student mix and attrition rate?

 eographic ocation: Is this an area in which you want to spend two or more

Students: What do current students in the program have to say about it? The graduate admissions office or the department can put you in touch with current students.

ost: How will you pay for school? Does your department or the university have assistantships available? What are average starting salaries of graduates in your field? Will you be able to support your loan payments? Is financial aid available?

Entrance Exams

You will need to research the required test for the program and institution in which you are applying for admission. Some examples of standardized tests that may be required:

    raduate Program: GRE   Graduate Record Exam (www.gre.org)
    raduate Program: MAT   Miller Analogies Test
    BA: GMAT   Graduate Management Admissions Test (www.gmat.org)
    aw School:

Application Fee: Most graduate schools require an application fee. Some fees may be waived if you meet certain financial criteria, but you will need to complete paperwork to receive this waiver.

Essay: Refer to the bottom of this page for in-depth information on essays.

nterview:

Of what value can you be to our school?

What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

What aspects of your life experiences do you think make you a good candidate for this graduate program?

edical/ ental School:

Why do you want to be a doctor/dentist?

What are your specific goals in medicine?

How do you plan to finance your medical education?

There are 1,000 applicants as qualified as you. Why should we choose you?

What steps have you taken to acquaint yourself with what a physician/dentist does?

What do you think the most pressing issue in medicine is today?

What would you like to do if you were not accepted into medical school?

What do you think about euthanasia?

What do you think of managed care?

Ideal Timeline

unior Year, Fall & Spring

Discuss your interests for post BA/BS work with your preceptor and faculty members

Research areas of study and specialties in your chosen field

Begin to look at institutions and programs

Talk with advisors or career counselors about application requirements

Investigate fellowships, scholarships and financial aid

unior Year, Summer

Send for application materials

Check application deadlines

Register and prepare for the appropriate graduate admission tests

Visit institutions of interest

Write application essays

Senior Year, Fall

Obtain letters of recommendation

Make copies of all application material and mail completed applications

Request transcripts from the Registrar and send additional copies (APPLY IN THE FALL)