

The Graduate School Plan

Considering Graduate School?

We recommend that you meet with your faculty and a career counselor to discuss your graduate school plans. The following is a brief outline of how to conduct a graduate school search:

- Consult with faculty in your department.
- Explore Career Center resources.
- Be sure you know all application deadlines and schedule admissions test(s).
- Submit all required application materials.
- Apply for financial aid (see the Career Center Website at www.elon.edu/careers for more information)

Elon Career Center
Phone: 336-278-6538
Fax: 336-278-6545
www.elon.edu/careers

There are three main steps in the graduate/professional school process: the decision to go graduate school; the process of researching graduate schools to select the best options for you and the application process itself. Some tips on all three steps are listed below.

DECIDING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Factors to consider

- Your Career Interests and Goals: How does it fit with what you want to do professionally?
- Your Financial Situation: Can you afford to go?
- When: Now or Later?
- Marketability: Will it help you to be more marketable once you have an advanced degree?
- Family Considerations
- **Motivation – the most important of all:** Are you ready to commit the time, effort and money that it takes to succeed in graduate school?

CHOOSING THE SCHOOL/PROGRAM

Factors to consider

- Program of Study
- Location
- Cost and financial aid
- Reputation of school and program
- Admissions requirements
- Faculty expertise and research interests
- Success of graduates
- Program requirements: thesis, time commitment, flexibility, internship

Researching graduate programs

Resources that can be helpful include:

- Faculty members and professionals in field
- Internet sites/Career Center Website
- Graduate school websites & literature

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- Peterson's Guide (internet or publication) and other publications
- Informational interviews with grad school reps

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Steps to applying to graduate or professional school include:

- Request information from the university
- Know the deadlines
- Prepare for and take required standardized tests
- Complete application forms
- Apply for scholarships, fellowships, financial aid and assistantships
- Visit or contact university to talk with current students and faculty

The Career Center can help you during all steps of this process. Just call us and set up an appointment.

Tips for Success

- Start early
- Research prospective programs carefully
- Check with all institutions to make sure your file is complete prior to deadlines
- Contact the graduate school, department, financial aid office and housing office to get information and make necessary arrangements