

Graduate School Resources

Go to this link for all the online resources listed below: www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Hotlinks/grad-schoolresources.htm

Grad School Info

- UNCW Graduate School
- Movin' On: Tips About Graduate School
- Peterson's Graduate Planner
- Graduate School Handbook
- Grad School & Careers- Princeton Review
- GradSchools.com
- Grad School Profiles
- Graduate Guide
- GradView.com
- Grad School Tips
- All Psychology Schools

Your Personal Statements

- Write A Personal Statement That Will Knock Their Socks Off
- How To Write A Stellar Personal Statement
- Statements of Purpose... What's Your Story?
- Write For Acceptance

Admissions Tests

- National Testing Program @ UNCW
- Online Test Prep Courses @ UNCW
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- Kaplan Test Prep

Grad School Rankings

- Best Grad Schools- US News & World Report
- University & College Rankings

Application Checklist

Junior Year Fall & Spring

- Research academic areas of interest, specific programs and institutions.
- Review print & web information on specific graduate programs, including program emphasis, test and admissions requirements, accreditation, etc.
- Determine where you would like to apply. Consider selecting 1-3 "Competitive" programs, 1-4 "Probable" programs, and 1-3 "Safety" programs. Consider the amount of application fees. Talk with faculty advisors and Career Services staff about programs and applications.
- Register and prepare for appropriate graduate admissions tests.

Junior Year Summer

- Write for application materials. Check for deadlines and admissions procedures.
- Visit campuses and programs of interest.
- Write application essay or statement of purpose.
- Take practice graduate admissions tests.
- Register for national application or data assembly service, if applicable.

Senior Year Fall

- Take appropriate graduate admissions test(s).
- Research financial aid sources, fellowships and assistantships.
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty members.
- Send in completed applications.

Senior Year Spring

- Order official transcripts from Registrar's office with Fall grades posted.
- Register for GAPSFAS (Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service), if required.
- Discuss acceptances, rejections and other career options with faculty and Career Services.
- Once accepted, submit deposit and registration material. Notify other programs of your enrollment decision. Send thank you notes to references and inform them of your success.

University of North Carolina Wilmington

PREPARING for
GRAD SCHOOL

Graduate or Professional School: Should I Go? Where? How?

1. Should I go to graduate or professional school?

Are you ready to commit the next two years (masters) or 4-8 years (doctorate) to graduate studies? Are you also ready to commit a yearly average of \$13,000 (public) or \$28,000 (private)? Fully explore every aspect of your chosen career by doing the following:

- Talk with faculty members and graduate students in your chosen area.
- Check out Web sites and conferences of related professional associations.
- Meet with professionals to see what the work is really like.
- Get first-hand experience by doing an internship, related part-time job, or volunteer experience in your career field of interest.
- Gain research experience with a faculty member.
- Join a UNCW club/organization.

It is very important to get information from professionals in your field about education and other qualifications, typical work settings, employment outlook, salaries, and other recommended sources of career information.



2. Which academic programs should I consider?

Your career exploration in Step 1 may have provided you with some recommended programs or institutions. Talk with faculty, advisors and other professionals in your interest area, and ask for their suggestions. This may help narrow down the list of potential institutions.

When evaluating programs, consider:

- admissions requirements
- academic program emphasis
- reputation/program quality
- faculty
- facilities
- accreditation
- cost & financial aid
- location & size
- post-grad school employment

3. How do I apply for graduate or professional school?

The application checklist in this brochure outlines the time line for your application activities. Pay close attention to the published application process at your selected institutions and meet their deadlines (usually eight months before your entrance date).

Most graduate and professional schools require a copy of your college transcript, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of purpose or application essay. Some programs also may require an interview, resume or portfolio of work samples from previous academic projects or work experiences. In addition, most programs also require admissions exams such as those shown in the right column.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*

Includes the General Test, which contains a verbal, quantitative and analytical writing section. Some programs may also require a Subject Test, which measures knowledge in a particular subject area.

Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)*

The GMAT is required for most Business and MBA programs and measures general verbal and math skills. It does not test specific knowledge in a particular subject area.

Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)*

The LSAT is designed to measure abilities needed for the student of law. The test includes multiple choice questions designed to assess the ability to read, understand and reason, plus a writing sample section.

Miller Analogy Test (MAT)*

The MAT uses verbal analogies to test reasoning ability. Some grad schools accept the MAT in lieu of the GRE.

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)

The MCAT measures the applicants' abilities in chemistry, physics, biology, reading, and quantitative and analytical skills. The MCAT is given twice each year and applicants are encouraged to take it 18 months before entering medical school.

* These exams are offered on the UNCW campus through our National Testing Program in Westside Hall.