



# GRADUATE SCHOOL

## Breaking Barriers – Adulting 101 Workshop

**Important Note:** Information presented is gathered through a combination of public resources and not put together by an official financial/insurance advisor. Information provided are meant to serve as nothing more than suggestions and left to the reader's discretion.

# AGENDA

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What is Graduate School?

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Programs & Structure

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How does Financial Aid work?

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Preparing a (Grad) Budget

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Strategic Planning

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Resources



# WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Additional education to earn a post-graduate degree (ex. Masters and Doctoral degrees)

Do I **NEED** a post-graduate degree for my **DREAM JOB**?!

- Check out [O\\*Net Online](#) – a career exploration and job analysis tool

# WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL?

While most fields accept the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), some require a specialized exam,

- **Business** – Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
- **Medical** – Medical College Test (MCAT)
- **Law** – Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- **Dental** – Dental Admissions Test (DAT)





## PROGRAMS & STRUCTURE

## PROGRAMS

Focus on a specific topic within the field

May offer certificates, concentrations and/or specializations on sub-topics

Offerings vary by institution



## PROGRAMS & STRUCTURE

## PROGRAMS

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
vs. Professional Doctoral  
Degrees

**PhD:** apply academic inquiry and  
research in academia

**PDD:** apply career and research  
skills to current issues in the field

# STRUCTURE



Masters programs range 1-3 years



Doctor of Philosophy  
(PhD) programs range  
4-6 years

First 2-3 years on course  
work, next 2 years on  
research and last 1-2 years  
writing and defending  
dissertation



May hold prerequisites depending on  
academic field and program



PhD research depends on faculty in the  
program

PROGRAMS &  
STRUCTURE



# GEOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM

## CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Offers both a Masters and PhD program with 6 majors to choose from
- New Student Field Trip
- Summer Research (summer before academic yr starts)

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- PhD Program that allows students to earn an M.A. and, M.Phil along the way
- Friendly to students new to Geo
- Guaranteed Graduate Fellowships for 5 yrs.



## HOW DOES FINANCIAL AID WORK?

- Apply for FAFSA, CSS Profile and, scholarships again!
- **Masters** – Less grants/scholarships and More loans
- **PhD** – Less/little loans and More grants/scholarships



## HOW DOES FINANCIAL AID WORK?

- **Assistantships** – Similar to work-study, students may apply for a GA position offered in offices across campus; benefits could include tuition coverage; considered a salary (taxable income)
- **Fellowships** – Similar to scholarships; provide money in exchange for short-term professional development or research opportunity; considered as a financial aid award (non-taxable)

# PREPARING A (GRAD) BUDGET

## APPLYING TO GS BUDGET

- Admissions Application Fee (\$50-\$200)
- Grad Test Fee
- CSS Profile Fee (\$25 + \$16/add. report)
- Admitted Student Deposit Fee (\$100+)
- Test Prep Fee (\$150+)

\*Some fees may be reduced or waived if eligible

## GS EXAM FEES (IN U.S.) BY TYPE

- GRE – \$220 / \$100 w.Voucher
- GMAT – \$275 in-person / \$300 online
- MCAT – \$330 / \$135 w.Waiver
- LSAT – \$215 / offers Fee Waiver Tiers
- DAT – \$525 / \$262.50 w.Waiver



**PREPARING A (GRAD) BUDGET**

## **FEES & EXPENSES WHILE IN GS**

Textbooks

Academic Materials (ex. lab coat, software, etc.)

Health Insurance

Transportation



# PREPARING A BUDGET: LIVING ON YOUR OWN

## RECURRING PAYMENTS

- List current/anticipating Bills
  - Phone
  - Spotify
  - Streaming Services
- Rent Budget Range (\$500-\$1,100)
- Utility Bills (\$50-\$250)
  - Light
  - Gas
  - Water
- Internet Bill (\$60-\$80)
- Renters Insurance (\$7-\$15)
- Car Insurance (\$80-\$300)
- Credit Card(s)
- Student Loans

## ONE-TIME PAYMENTS

- Application Fee (\$25-\$75)
- Credit Report and/or Background Check Fee (\$25-\$50)
- Move-In (3x Rent *plus* moving costs)
- Pet-Deposit (\$250-\$500)
- Fees Moving to a New State
  - Car Title, Registration, Inspection and, Insurance
  - Driver's License/State ID

## TO GET STARTED

- Make a school list with name, location, app. fee, app. deadline, exam req., and program
  - Fee Waivers?
- Full-Time/Part-Time
  - Do you qualify for scholarships? Assistantships?
- On-Campus/Off-Campus
  - Will you be living on your own? Out of state?



STRATEGIC  
PLANNING

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Determine your academic path – PhD, Masters or Professional
- Narrow your school list
- Apply for fee waivers, if applicable
  - Apply for Career & Civic Engagement Center's [Mini Grants](#)
- Research outside scholarships and fellowships

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Consider taking a break after college
- Moving and becoming an *in-state* resident, if applicable
- Apply for a job at the institution you'll be attending for tuition benefits
- Research the resources and support available at the school



## STRATEGIC PLANNING: LIVING ON YOUR OWN

- Start saving *NOW* if possible
- Prioritize services
- Rent with Roommates
- Payment Due Dates
- Schedule some beginning of the month and some for middle of the month

## STRATEGIC PLANNING: LIVING ON YOUR OWN

- Meal Prep by Week
- Review Bank Statement to Track Expenses
- Utilize Public Transportation when possible
- If eligible apply for SNAP Benefits or check if community fridges are available

# RESOURCES



- Sites that rank Graduate Schools by field, affordability and more
  - [Best Masters Degrees](#)
  - [Best Value Schools](#)
- Career & Civic Engagement Center Resources
  - [O\\*Net Online](#)
  - [Mini-Grants](#)
  - [Graduate School Resources](#)
  - [Career Resources for Undocumented & DACA Students](#)
- Breaking Barriers Resources
  - [Scholarship Database](#)
  - [Graduate School Scholarships for Undocumented Students](#)
  - [Apartment Search 101 Handout](#)
  - [What's Credit? Why Is It Important Handout](#)

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

# RESOURCES

- Entrance Exam Fee Waiver Programs
  - [GRE Fee Reduction Program](#)
  - [MCAT Fee Assistance Program](#)
  - [LSAT Fee Waiver & Credential Assembly Service \(CAS\)](#)
  - [DAT Partial Fee Waivers](#)
- Some Fee Waiver Programs include practice tests and materials!



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THANK YOU

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Scan QR Code to

schedule an appointment

