

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of purple, ranging from light lavender to deep, dark purple. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic and modern aesthetic. The central text is positioned in the white space between these shapes.

Thinking About Grad School?

Graduate school only happens once...or maybe twice!

- ▶ Graduate school involves a major investment personally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and financially.
- ▶ Could set the foundation for your professional life
- ▶ Invest the time and energy now to plan your course carefully

Starting Your Grad School Search

- ▶ Timing - Start your search for a school 2 years before your intended start date
 - ▶ Schools typically accept applications 1 year before start date
- ▶ Search online - Make a list of possible options
 - ▶ Create a spreadsheet to keep yourself organized
- ▶ Keep researching
 - ▶ Request written information from each institution
 - ▶ Gather information from each institution's website
- ▶ Narrow down your list
 - ▶ Use your spreadsheet to compare schools and programs

Grad School Search continued

- ▶ Compare schools and programs - Things to consider
 - ▶ Website - Informative? Easy to navigate?
 - ▶ Responsive - Did they answer your calls, send you print materials...
 - ▶ Average class size
 - ▶ Facilities
 - ▶ Student:Faculty ratio
 - ▶ Program size
 - ▶ Tuition cost
 - ▶ Application deadline/fees/required tests
 - ▶ Waiting list

More Searching...

- ▶ Rank your schools
 - ▶ Depending on your program, narrow your list to the top 5-10 schools you are considering
 - ▶ Identify questions you have about each institution
 - ▶ Communicate with the institution or request a campus visit
 - ▶ Make sure you choose the best “fit”
 - ▶ Align your needs with research opportunities or internships offered
 - ▶ Is the campus culture a good match for you?

The Application

- ▶ Most applications are online
 - ▶ Some disciplines offer a centralized application service similar to the undergrad Common Application
- ▶ Write a great personal statement (More on this topic in a follow-up presentation)
 - ▶ If directions are given, provide all requested information
 - ▶ If no directions are given, follow these simple steps:
 - ▶ Explain why you want to pursue your intended program
 - ▶ Explain how you will contribute to the classroom and your future career
 - ▶ Describe your research or internship interests
 - ▶ Explain how you will be a good “fit” with the program

Application continued

- ▶ Transcripts
 - ▶ Send official transcripts for all schools where you earned college credit
- ▶ Recommendation letters
 - ▶ Typically need 2 letters - check application specifics
 - ▶ Should usually come from faculty
 - ▶ Request letters from faculty who know you well
 - ▶ Waive your right to view your letters
- ▶ Exams
 - ▶ Always prepare for exams (GRE, GMAT, LSAT...) if they are required

Application continued

- ▶ Interviews
 - ▶ Some institutions require interviews
 - ▶ May be phone or in-person
 - ▶ Do your research and be prepared!!
- ▶ Additional materials
 - ▶ Requirements vary - writing sample, resume, portfolio...

Application Final Thoughts

- ▶ Follow all directions
- ▶ Have your name on everything
- ▶ Meet all deadlines
 - ▶ Early is better than on the last day
- ▶ Ask questions

Financial Aid for Grad School

- ▶ Aid is different from undergraduate programs
 - ▶ Work study availability is limited
 - ▶ Federal grants only available for first undergraduate degree
 - ▶ Financial aid for Master's degree is minimal
- ▶ What funding is available?
 - ▶ Graduate assistantships
 - ▶ Limited work-study
 - ▶ Institutional scholarships
 - ▶ Federal loans - Minimize as much as possible!

Applying for Aid

- ▶ You still need to complete the FAFSA
 - ▶ As a graduate student, you are considered independent - no need to file with parents
 - ▶ File EARLY!
 - ▶ Graduate student aid is awarded early
 - ▶ Sends a message to admissions that you are serious about attending

Graduate School Exams

- ▶ **GRE**
 - ▶ Measures verbal and quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills
- ▶ **GMAT**
 - ▶ Standard for applications to MBA programs
 - ▶ Measures quantitative and verbal skills, integrated reasoning and analytical writing
- ▶ **LSAT**
 - ▶ Standard for applications to law school
 - ▶ Measures reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, logical reasoning, writing

Graduate School Exams

- ▶ MCAT
 - ▶ Standard for medical school applicants
 - ▶ Contains 4 sections
 - ▶ Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
 - ▶ Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
 - ▶ Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior
 - ▶ Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills
- ▶ GRE-Subject Tests
 - ▶ Required by some programs
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Literature in English
 - ▶ Mathematics
 - ▶ Physics
 - ▶ Psychology

Resources

- ▶ Undergraduate faculty
- ▶ Academic advisor
- ▶ University websites
- ▶ Grad school searches <https://www.gradschools.com/>
- ▶ GRE Exam - <https://www.ets.org/gre/>
- ▶ US Dept. of Education
<https://www2.ed.gov/students/grad/school/edpicks.jhtml>