



CSI
COLLEGE SCENE INVESTIGATION

Top Ten Tips for College Hunting: Graduate School and Academic Program Selection

1. Don't necessarily choose the graduate program that is most like what you do now or what you majored in during your Bachelor's degree.
2. Write down your personal and career goals regarding what you want five years from now before you start graduate school hunting.
3. Write down your immediate personal and career needs before you start graduate school hunting, keeping in mind what you chose for goals but addressing issues that help you get through the next six months.
4. Do choose the program that best compliments your career skill deficits and best enables you to achieve your life and career goals.
5. Do find the BEST program to meet your personal needs and goals. If you are bound to a certain location because of family or career, then choose the BEST program within your geographic area.
6. Use the university's website to find out everything you can about the program, the requirements, the financial issues, and the faculty.
7. When you select finalists for your degree program, interview a faculty member about the program. It is preferable that this faculty person demonstrates interests in the same topics and issues that you have.
8. Apply for any and all scholarships, fellowships, grant, and loan monies that you come across, including those offered by the university, college, academic program, private organizations (such as those with chapters in your city), professional associations, your employer, your insurance company, and even your church.
9. If you have pre-existing loans, contact your lender to arrange for deferment during your graduate studies and find out how many hours you need to enroll in each semester to maintain interest free deferments.
10. Stay informed about the tuition and fees at the university you choose because these can be raised on a semesterly basis and you want to be able to plan ahead and budget them.

Bonus tip: Find out what the course offerings are for the upcoming years or semesters as quickly as possible so you can plan when you will take what courses and graduate according to your own timeline and goals.