

Questions to ask at the 2016 Power in Diversity Leadership Conference Graduate School Resource Fair

Investigating the Program:

- Ask for statistics concerning GPA and test scores for accepted students.
 - Some programs weigh test scores less heavily in admissions procedures, others will weigh them more. Learn what range of scores are for accepted applicants, to help you determine your likelihood of admission.
- How much emphasis is put on research, teaching or professional experience?
- Is the program licensed by accrediting bodies in their field? What is the curriculum?
- How flexible is the program? Will you have the option of designing your own program or concentration?
- What is the estimated time to complete the program?
- Are assistantships available in the department or on-campus? What is the best way to find those?
- Can you go part-time or full-time?
- Are there research or internships requirements?
- Are the professors willing to back student research interests?
- What characteristics do they look for in considering admitting a student?
- With what professionally related activities are students involved?
- What facilities are available for graduate students?

Faculty:

- How many faculty members does the program have? Are any leaving or retiring?
- If you can't find information on the website, what are the faculty's research interests and publications?
- What is the student to professor ratio?
- How available are faculty to the students?
- Are students assigned advisors or do they choose one?
- How much time do the faculty members spend away on research, conferences, etc.?
- What percentage of graduates gain employment in their field immediately upon graduation? Within one year? Which organizations hire graduates? Where are the employers located?
- What is the attrition rate?
- Why do students leave the program?
- What facilities are available to help students in terms of doing research or participating in internships throughout their graduate experience?
- Are there research facilities, computers, libraries or internship opportunities on sight

Students:

- How many students are typically in each class?
- How available are the advisors and professors?
- How well prepared do students feel for major exams?
- How long do students usually take to complete their degrees?
- What do they wish they would have known before entering the program?
- What kind of flexibility in scheduling is there?
- Do students have problems getting into needed classes?

- Are assistantships available in the department or on-campus? What is the best way to find those?
- How does the department prepare the students to become a teaching assistant/research assistant?
- What is the workload associated with the department's assistantships?
- What is the students' impression of the faculty's commitment to mentoring students?
- What professionally related activities are students involved with?
- How do students get internships? Are they selected and placed or are students required to find their own internship?
- Why do students leave the program?
- How do students describe the communication by faculty in general? How do students describe the communication by faculty to students about the program requirements?

Housing:

- Is there graduate student housing on/off campus?
- What does it cost/include?
- Where is on campus housing located?
- What type of transportation is available?

Funding/Costs:

- Does the department provide assistantships, fellowships or grants?
- What is the department's history with funding its students throughout their graduate studies?
- Is funding available year round?
- What other sources of funding are available on campus?
- What is the cost of the program?
- What are the hidden costs (insurance, conferences, membership requirements, etc.)?
- Is there support for graduate students to attend conferences?
- What is the cost of living in that area?
- Has tuition risen in the recent past or is it expected to rise in the foreseeable future?

Employment Prospective:

- What kinds of employment are possible for students graduating from the programs you are considering?
- Where are past students employed?
- What is the rate of employment for graduates of each particular program?
- Where do graduates tend to live/work geographically?

1. What are the requirements for being admitted into a graduate program?
2. Does my program of interest require the GRE or other related test scores?
3. If my program of interest does require these. How are the scores factored into my admissions?
4. How much is the tuition at the graduate school?
5. Does the institution have on campus or institution owned living facilities, or is that a situation that student needs to arrange on their own?
6. What is the acceptance rate for the Graduate school or specifically for that program?
7. Should I apply for financial aid before or after I apply?

8. Is applying online the recommend way of submitting an application?
9. What type of financial assist may be made available to me?
10. Do most graduate school students have a graduate assistantship or internship?
11. What is the process for applying to Graduate assistantships, and what type of tuition reimbursement and stipends are in place?
12. How large is the student population at this institution, and how large is the graduate student population?
13. What type of environment and community is this institution located within?
14. What type of extracurricular involvement opportunities are there for graduate students?
15. If I'm an international student how differently does the process look when applying to graduate school?
16. If I'm an international student whose first language is not English what are the minimum TOEFL/IETLS scores for graduate admission?
17. Are new graduate international students required to participate in a English Language Assessment Exam?