

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

There are a variety of sources, both formal and informal, where information is available.

Professional Associations:

Many professional associations have information for students about graduate schools in their field. For example, the American Counseling Association (ACA) has information on its website about accredited counseling programs.

Commercial Guides:

These are often available in university or urban libraries in CD-ROM format. They are also for sale in most large bookstores. You can search by your program specialization area and develop a list of programs of interest. The best guides are ones that have the broad categories and then break those categories into specialization areas.

Rankings:

Several publications such as *U.S. News and World Report*, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex_brief.php, can provide information on rankings. These ranking provide an understanding of the nationally known programs in that area and provide name recognition when looking for a job. However, this information does not tell you about the professors, politics, job placement records or financial aid possibilities. Nor does it inform you if it is the right school for you.

Graduate Program Catalogs and More:

Request the catalog and admissions application materials for schools of interest. Several schools have this information on their website so check this out prior to calling. If you have questions about the application materials, call the phone number where those questions need to be directed.

Talking to Program Personnel:

If you have questions about the program itself, these questions are best directed to the department chairperson or their graduate programs coordinator. Contacting the department with questions is a way to show your interest in their program. Be sure your questions are not able to be answered by reading the website information about the program. Always be polite and respectful of all persons with whom you speak. Click on “Questions to Ask” for information on possible questions to ask about the program [click here](#).

Current Students and Alumni:

Try to talk to at least one graduate student and one program alumnus from each program you are seriously considering. Often these individuals are more than willing to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their program, professors and the job market for the field. You can ask the faculty member you speak with for a list of current and former students with whom you can speak. You may also be able to find people from the programs you are considering by talking with faculty from your undergraduate institution or professional associations related to your field. For a list of possible questions to ask current and former students [click here](#).

Classes:

This is a great option if you live near any of the programs you are considering. Taking a class from the program of interest is an excellent opportunity to determine if you like the professors and students. It also provides time to talk to the students and see how the program operates. Additionally, you can use your experience when developing your statement of purpose which shows your interest in the program.

Professors:

Ask your professors from your undergraduate institution about programs they are knowledgeable about. The professors may even be able to recommend some programs if they know you well enough.

(Kaplan: Get Into Graduate School, 2006)

On-line and Book Resources:

These are resources that will assist you in gathering information about graduate programs and/or additional information about applying to graduate or professional schools.

On-line:

Gradprofiles.com - <http://www.gradprofiles.com/>

Gradview.com - <http://www.gradview.com/>

Gradschools.com - <http://www.gradschools.com/>

Graduateguide.com - <http://www.graduateguide.com/>

National Association of Graduate/Professional Students - <http://www.nagps.org/>

Gradschooltips.com - <http://www.gradschooltips.com/>

Council of Graduate Schools - <http://www.cgsnet.org/Default.aspx?tabid=199>

Peterson's Guide - <http://www.petersons.com/Default.asp?ShowTab=gr>

U.S. News and World Report Graduate School -

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex_brief.php

Princeton Review - <http://www.princetonreview.com/home.asp>

SLU Resources:

Pius Library - <http://libraries.slu.edu/>

Graduate School - <http://www.slu.edu/graduate/>

Career Services – <http://careers.slu.edu/>

Writing Center - <http://www.slu.edu/x13305.xml>

Books:

Kaplan: Get into Graduate School by Kaplan, Inc. 2006

Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning a Master's or a Ph.D.
Peters, Robert L.

The Grad School Handbook: An Insider's Guide to Getting in and Succeeding
Jerrard, Richard and Jerrard, Margot

Graduate and Professional Programs
(a series of 6 volumes: *Arts and Architecture; Social Sciences; Psychology; Physical Sciences; Humanities; and Health Professions*)
Peterson's Guides, 2003.

Graduate Schools in the U.S.
Peterson's Guides, 2003.

Negotiating Graduate School : A Guide for Graduate Students, 2nd edition
Rossman, Mark H.
Sage Publications, 2002.