

# Choosing a Graduate Program

Choosing a graduate program is a process which requires research and careful consideration. The following suggestions will help you to organize the process...

1. Since graduate level education requires specializing in a field, you must first decide on the field you're interested in. You can do this with the assistance of a faculty or CSC advisor, or by talking to professionals in a variety of fields. (The Alumni Career Network is one source of professionals to ask for information.) The book *Accounting To Zoology, Graduate Fields Defined*, available in CSC, also describes the major graduate school fields.
2. Use Peterson's or Barron's guides to graduate programs to get an overview of the schools offering the program you've selected. These directories will provide application requirements, tuition costs and other relevant information. Write to the address provided for a current catalog and program description for those schools in which you have an interest.
3. Once you've decided on your field of study and have narrowed down your choice of schools, a closer look should be taken at the curriculum and faculty. The curriculum should be able to meet your expectations as far as what you hope to gain from your experience. Talking to current students or faculty can give you a better picture of what the program offers. Also, the graduate catalog of a particular school will detail courses and requirements. The faculty has a major role in the reputation or quality of a program. A brief look at the areas of specialization within the faculty could yield a clearer picture. Does the faculty focus on an area of research of interest to you? How often do they publish? What is their training? Once you've researched the curriculum and the faculty, find out what type of job placement and student services are offered. Some questions to consider are...
  - o Where are alumni working now and are they successful?
  - o What kind of job search assistance is offered?
  - o What percentage of graduates locate jobs?