

So – You Are Thinking About Graduate School...

Bill Kosteas

Dean College of Graduate Studies

Cleveland State University

Choosing the Right Program

- **Professional**

- Does this align with my career goals?
 - Ask about placements, career outcomes.
- Does this allow me to obtain the correct licensure or certification?
 - What is the licensing exam pass rate?

- **Academic**

- Does this align with my career goals?
- Does this align with my research interests?

Choosing the Right School

- **Reasons to choose a university**

- The institution has notoriety in my field
- The institution increases my chance of employability
- The institution is funding me or is affordable
- Graduates of this institution are very successful and employable in their field

- **Reasons not to choose a university**

- For a relationship (romantic, friendships)
- I don't have a full-time job lined up after graduation

Writing a Graduate School Essay

- **Writing an Essay / Personal Statement / Statement of Career Goals**

“If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter” ~Blaise Pascal

- Ask for clarification
- Pay attention to directions and/or prompts
- Keep it professional
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the program and how you fit
- Have *at least* two other people read it for content and grammar

Graduate School Testing Requirements

- **GRE/GMAT/LSAT/MCAT et cetera**
 - Schedule well in advance
 - Take a practice test
 - If you need accommodations, ask for them

Graduate Assistantships & Teaching Assistantships

- **Learning about funding**

- Research Assistantship vs Teaching Assistantship
- Is my career goal to teach or work in a lab?
- Ask before applying if funding is available
- Ask what typical responsibilities are part of the position
- Speak to a current TA/GA to learn about the culture
- Make sure the positional duties align with your career goals to build your vitae