

Choosing the Right Graduate School

Unlike an undergraduate education, scholastic concerns and the type of education desired should dominate the selection process for graduate school.

What does the Student Want to Do After School?

Graduate school is intensely focused; each student needs to know their area of concentration before deciding where to apply. Once exact interests are determined, most students will be able to find a variety of programs available. Make sure that students explore all of these programs thoroughly, because they can be extremely different in nature. The same degree does not mean it's the same program. Know your options!

Finding Out More—Exploring the Resources Available to You.

Although research can be tedious, it is the best way to ensure that students find the right graduate school. Once they have determined their priorities, the search will be much easier. As an international student, college visits are often impossible. However, rest assured; there are other ways to realize the possibilities.

- Try to make resource books available. Although they are quite large (and expensive), they are usually available in special libraries. They should have a database of schools and an overview of the various programs. Hamburg's Amerikazentrum has ample resources of this nature.
- If your students are currently attending an undergraduate institution in the states, find out if there is graduate support available to them. This usually occurs through student advising or special library references.
- Talk to others in your field and see what they would recommend. It would also be beneficial for the student to seek out other professionals who have completed their graduate study in their particular field to receive recommendations.
- Once potential schools are identified, ask for brochures and resources from the particular educational institutions. Encourage the student that you are advising to contact students that are already enrolled in the program. Admissions representatives are also fantastic resources for incoming potential students.
- Check out web sites that provide information about the particular schools of interest as well as general sites devoted to graduate study in the U.S.

Helpful Websites

<http://www.petersons.com/graduate/gsector.html>

<http://www.allaboutgradschool.com/>

<http://www.gradview.com>

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