

To Be or Not To Be

Graduate & Professional School Edition



Agenda

Undergraduate vs. graduate education

Common myths

Types of degrees

Program considerations

Application pieces

What You'll Learn Today

At the end of this workshop, you will be able to...



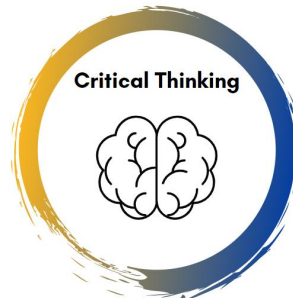
Identify factors that determine if graduate school is necessary



List different considerations when choosing a program

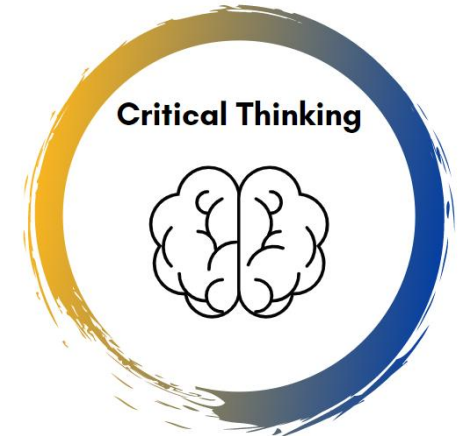


Name the application pieces





NACE CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES



Obtaining requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.



College *vs.* Grad School: What's the difference?

Undergraduate vs. Graduate Education

Scope of study

Expertise Level

Output/deliverables expected upon graduation



Common Myths



Common myths



Jobs in the sciences and psychology require advanced degrees



Advanced degrees mean a higher salary



Grad school will give me time to explore careers



Types of Degrees

Types of Degrees



Master-Level

- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Doctoral (academic and professional)

- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Doctor of Medicine (MD)
- Juris Doctor (JD)
- PharmD

Others

- Certificates
- Post-doctoral
- Combination (MD/PhD or MBA/JD)



Post-baccalaureate programs

What are they?

Great for...

- Career changers
- Improving academic standing before applying to grad programs
- Preparing to earn a second bachelor's degree

Considerations...

- Programs are not equal to graduate education, but are more advanced than a bachelor's degree
- Can be used to take pre-requisites for graduate or professional programs
- Typically 8-12 months



Program Considerations

What to consider when choosing a program



Program considerations

How to search for programs



Grad school websites



Rankings



Accreditation



Program considerations

Cohort Model



Course structure

Highly structured
Fewer electives



Peer networking

Strong network with peers
Limits external interaction



Time structured

Standardized time frame
Not flexible

Program considerations

Research vs. **Applied**



Emphasis
Theory
Practice



Faculty Relationship
Advisor
Mentor



Final Project
Thesis/Dissertation
Exam/Portfolio/Practicum

Program considerations

Online or on-campus



Discussions

In-class

Online boards/forums



Access to resources

In-person office hours and services

Online/remote options



Online considerations

Flexibility

Motivation

Study space



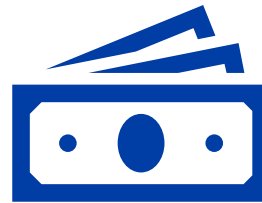
Program considerations

Financial Aid



Institutional Funding

Teaching Assistant
Graduate Assistant
Research Assistant
Fellowship



Scholarships

Merit-based
Need-based

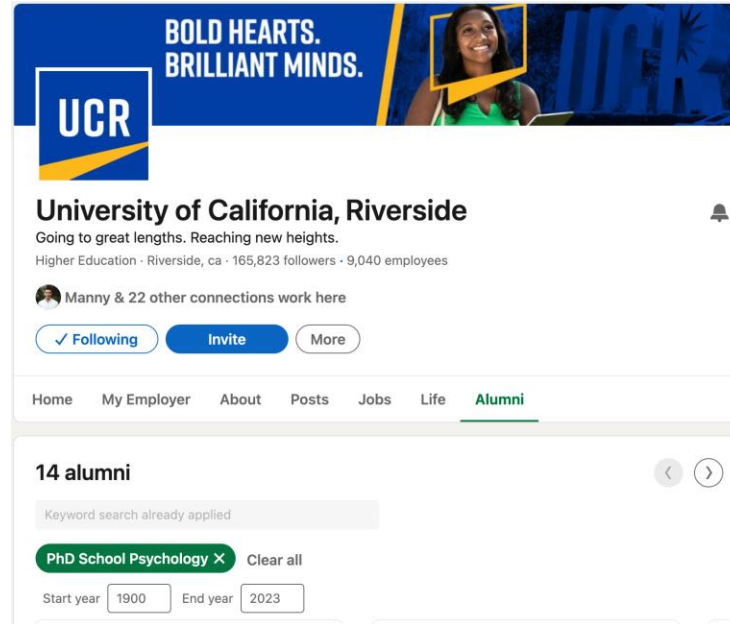


Loans

Unsubsidized

Program considerations

Get to Know the Programs



Get connected to programs' admissions:

- Find out what makes each program stand apart from each other
- Ask to get connected to current students of a program or alumni
- Make sure if a program is the right fit for you

Research Alumni of Programs on LinkedIn:

- Utilize the "Alumni" tab of different universities of interest
- Search for program names to find examples of current students / alumni
- Pay attention to experiences on alumni profiles
- Connect with people of interest to learn more about their career path



Application Pieces

Transcripts

Official

Unofficial

Leave enough time to mail

Application

Institutional

Program-Specific

Fees (program and institutional)

Exams

Find your best study method

Schedule early enough to allow for scoring

Fees to take and to send scores

Personal Statements

Share motivation and preparation

Ask admissions representatives questions

Highlight unique qualities and career goals

Use the ARC

Letters of Recommendation

Ask several weeks in advance

Provide resume and highlights

Writers should speak to academic preparedness and/or professional competence

An aerial photograph of the University of California, Riverside campus at dusk. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the center, the iconic clock tower stands prominently. The background shows a cityscape and distant mountains under a twilight sky. A small yellow chevron graphic is positioned above the tower.

Staying Organized

Staying organized



Find a way to track your program research, application materials, and status that works best for you

Staying organized

Find a way to track all of your applications and timelines that works for you

Grad School Log							
Application Deadline	School Name	Program Name	Contact Information (Admissions)	Tuition Cost	Location	Pros / Cons	Next steps?

UC RIVERSIDE | Career Network



Join the UCR Career Network, an online community for networking, mentoring, and job opportunities for alumni and students.

MENTORING

Matching process that connects current students with alumni or alumni with one another.

JOB SEARCH

Job board for those currently seeking employment or for alumni looking to hire other Highlanders.

NETWORKING

Discussion boards to meet and network with others who have similar career questions.

REGISTER AT [CAREERNETWORK.UCR.EDU](https://careernetwork.ucr.edu)



Questions?

Location: We are located in the Career Center Plaza. Our entrance is the University Lecture Hall and the Surge Building, behind the UCR Campus Store.

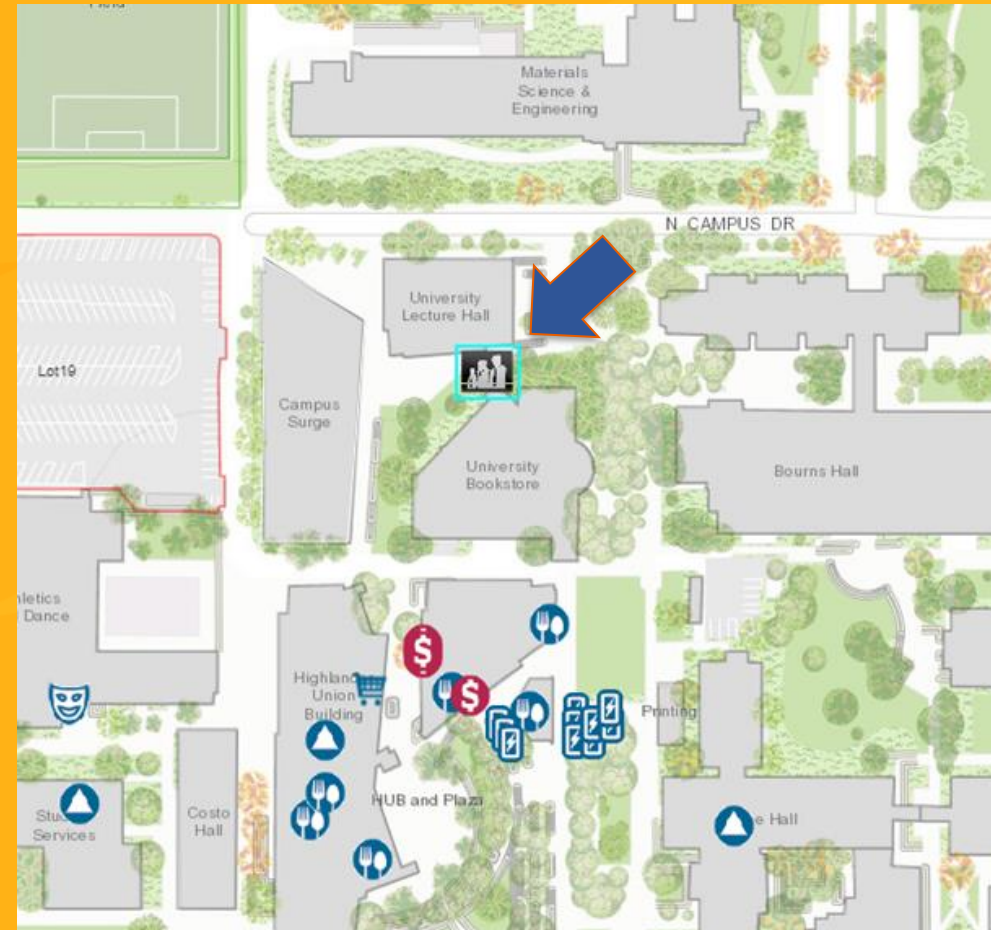
Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5 pm

*Individual counseling appointments available
Schedule on Handshake*

Drop-in Hours:
Mon. - Fri. (days & times vary)
View drop-in schedule on our website <https://careers.ucr.edu/>



Career Center



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