To Be or Not To Be

Graduate and Professional School Edition

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Agenda

Undergraduate vs. Graduate education

Common Myths

Types of Degrees

Program Considerations

Application Pieces

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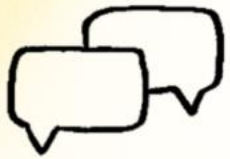


COMMUNICATION

PROFESSIONALISM

CRITICAL THINKING

NACE®

CAREER READINESS COMPETENCIES

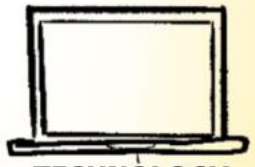
Obtaining requisite competencies that broadly prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace.

TEAM WORK

EQUITY & INCLUSION

LEADERSHIP

CAREER AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT



TECHNOLOGY

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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

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Undergraduate vs. Graduate Education

What's the difference?

Scope of study
Expertise Level
Output/deliverables expected upon graduation

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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

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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)

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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

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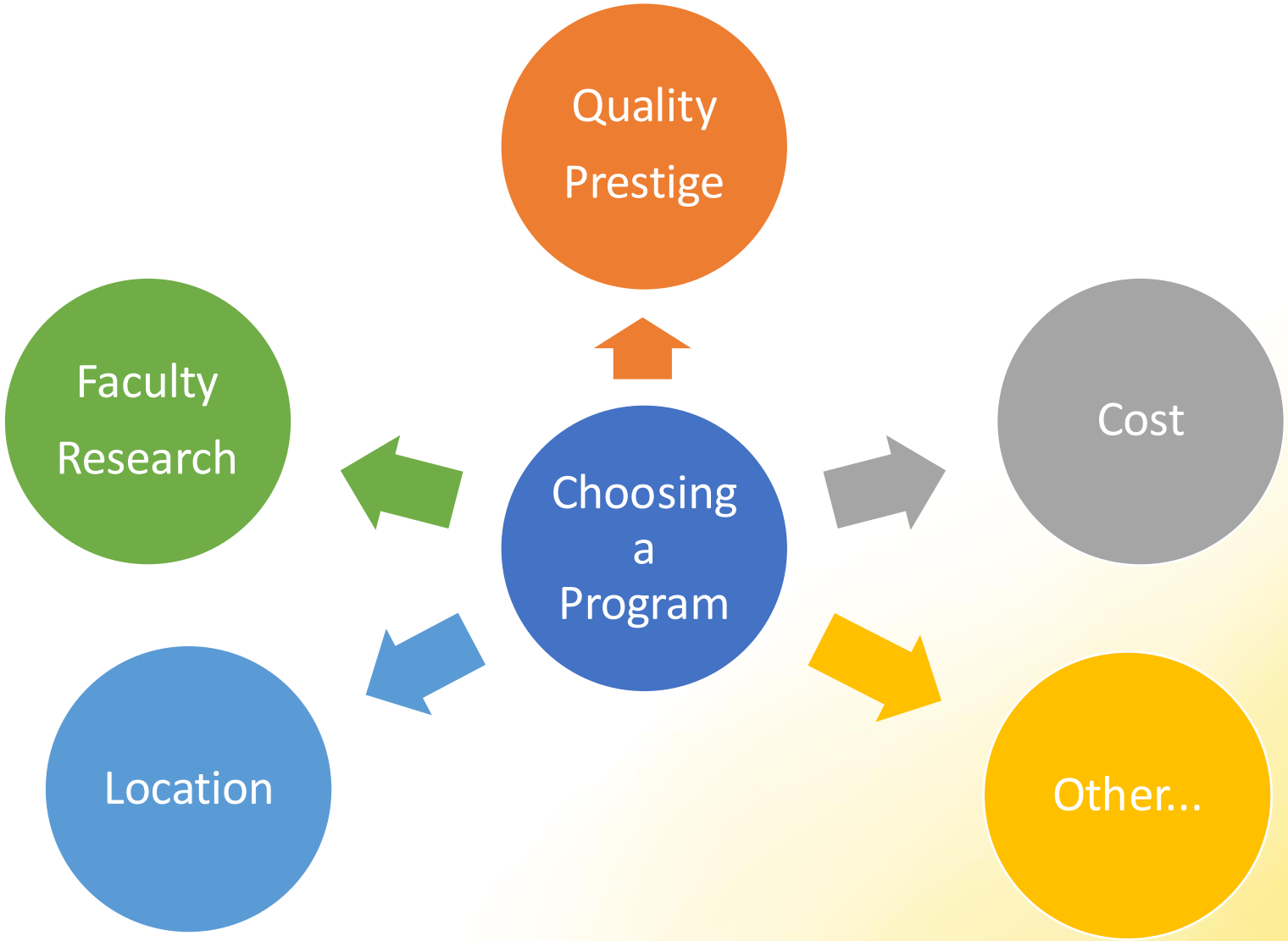
Program Considerations

What to consider when choosing a program



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Program Considerations

How to Search For Programs

PETERSON'S®
A nelnet COMPANY

Grad school websites

BEST GRAD SCHOOLS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
RANKINGS

Rankings

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
Accrediting Commission for Schools

Accreditation

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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

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Program considerations

Research vs. Applied

Emphasis
Theory
Practice

Faculty Relationship
Advisor
Mentor

Final Project
Thesis/Dissertation
Exam/Portfolio/Practicum

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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

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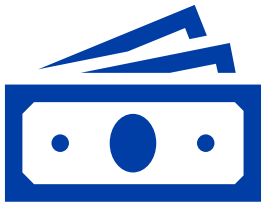
Program Considerations

Financial Aid

Institutional Funding
Teaching Assistant
Graduate Assistant
Research Assistant
Fellowship



Scholarships
Merit-based
Need-based

Loans
Unsubsidized

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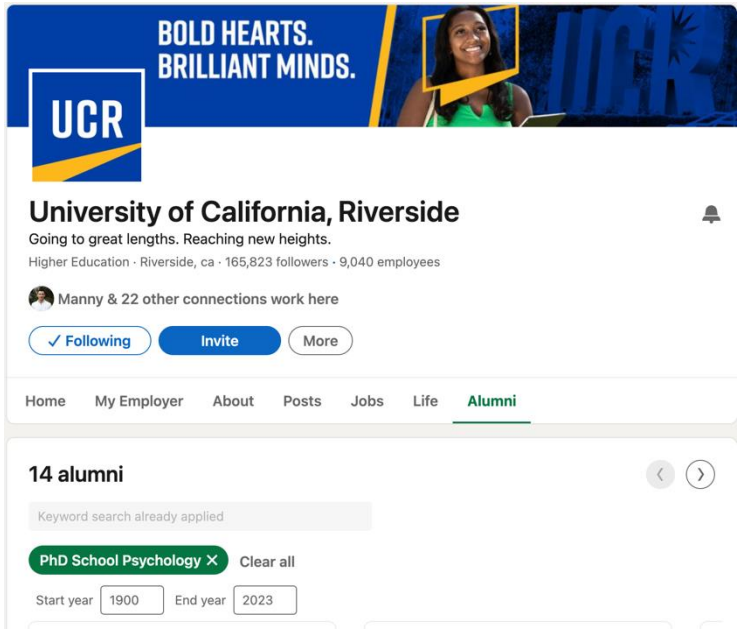
Program considerations

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

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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

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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?

QUESTIONS

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location

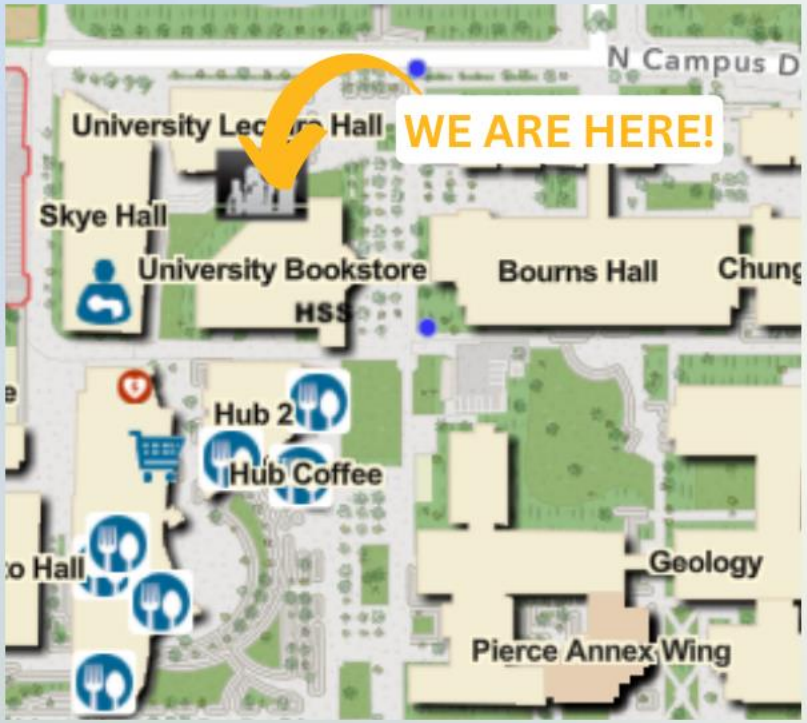
ENTRANCE IS ACROSS FROM ARC AND UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL, UNDERNEATH THE BOOKSTORE

hours

8 AM - 5 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

website home

drop in hours



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UCR Center for Undergraduate