



Graduate Admissions Committees: the application process

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Graduate Admissions Application

- Goal's Statement (1-2 pages)
- Letters of Recommendation (2-3)
- Transcripts
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- English Language Proficiency (TOEFL)

What We Look for in the Goals Statement

- Well-written, clear, good grammar
- Communicates enthusiasm
- Gives examples
- Shows knowledge about degree program
- Refers to specific faculty and programs
- Explain any special circumstances (low grades, test scores)
- Has been reviewed by an English speaker

What We Look for in Letters of Recommendation

- Should come from faculty members who know you
- Faculty members should state why you will be successful
- Emphasize experiences that strengthen your application: jobs, volunteer work, papers, projects
- Hint: Give writers a list of your accomplishments and projects to work with
- Hint: Follow up so they send letters on time

Graduate Record Exams (GRE)

- Go to the webpage and do practice exams
www.ets.org/gre/
- Talk to people who have taken it
- Read about the GRE, the more you understand the test the better you will do
- Take a workshop on the GRE if possible
- Take it again if you feel you can do better

Interviews

- Do your research and prepare questions before the interview
- Know the program you are applying to well
- Practice responses to obvious questions:
 - Why do you want to come to this program?
 - What do you have to offer?
 - What do you plan to do after graduation?
- Listen, relax (if you can), be yourself

Networking

- Make personal contacts in the academic department
 - How can you do that?
- Get to know someone who shares your research interests
- Convince them you would be an important addition to their program
- Get them to be your advocate

How to Make Choices

- Reputation of university
- How closely the program matches your interests
- Will you have a good rapport with faculty?
- Geographical location

Why the University Wants You

- Graduate students are important in maintaining the research quality of universities
- Successful research projects helps them get more research grants
- Universities need your tuition

What We Look For

- Good grades and test scores
- An ability to speak and write English
- A clear and well-written statement of purpose
- Someone whose personality and passion shines through
- Someone who is a good fit for our program

How to be Successful

- Do your homework
 - Learn as much about the program as possible and tailor your application to that program
- Write, re-write and review your application
 - It must be your ideas, in your voice and in good English
- Practice English
 - The American Center at the US Embassy has books you can check out, lectures and English language courses
<<http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/program.html>>

Good Luck!

- Questions?