

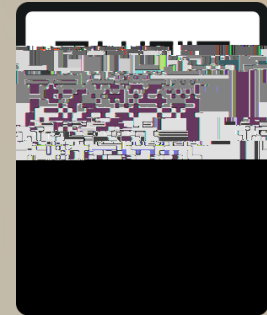


# Applying to Graduate School 101

## HOUSEKEEPING

- Your video and microphone are disabled
- To ask a question, please use the Q + A feature
- PPT slides will be available next week in the CNSM Thrive website under “Previous Events”

Scan QR Code for  
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# Should I apply to graduate school?...

## *Factors to Consider*

- Your career goals: short-term and long-term
- Time: Master's programs (1-3 yrs); PhD (5-6 yrs); Law (3 yrs)
- Cost / Funding: scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans
- Convenience: location, travel
- Life / Family / Other intangibles

# Graduate Studies at CSULB

- Approximately 5,000 students
- Over 100 graduate program options across 65 fields
- 4 doctoral programs
- Standard graduate tuition ~\$8,300 per year for full-time students
- Need-based financial aid available for most graduate programs!

# Common Program Options

- Master's degree
- Ph.D. with master's built in (master's degree typically obtained during year 1 & 2 of doctorate upon completion of qualifying exam/comprehensive exam).
- Ph.D. degree

# Types of Graduate Programs

## *Master's degrees*

Offered in many fields of study, and vary in coursework and career trajectory

- Two general types of Master's degrees

Non-terminal master's degrees: designed to lead to a terminal master's degree

# Types of Graduate Programs

## *Specialist degrees*

- Prepare students for professional certificates, credential or licensing requirements (e.g., credential for becoming a K-12 teacher, counselor, or principal).
- Often earned in addition to a master's degree and will require additional coursework, training, or internship experience.

# Types of Graduate Programs

## *Doctorate degrees – Ph.D.*

- Focus on the creation of new knowledge via independent **research**
- Ph.D. recipients typically pursue faculty positions at 4-year universities and/or work in research
- Ph.D. generally takes 5-6 years to complete



## *I'm graduating soon, when can I apply?*

- Get an early start – recommended students begin preparing to applying more than one year before you begin program.
- Application deadlines at many colleges are often 9-10 months before program begins.
  - *Example:* CSULB M.S. Industrial/Organizational Psychology program begins **August 2021** for fall. The application deadline for the program is **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

# Do I need work experience to apply?

- Many master's, doctoral, and credential programs do ***not require*** full-time work experience, but work experience can help – especially if it is relevant to the field you are applying
- Examples of programs that often prefer/require relevant work experience
  - Master of Business Administration (MBA)
  - Master of Public Administration (MPA)
  - Education Doctorate (EdD)
  - Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT)

# Materials needed to apply

- Application/Transcripts
- Entrance Exam (e.g., **GRE**, LSAT, GMAT, CSET)
- Statement of Purpose or Personal Statement (2-5 pages)
- Resume/CV
- Letters of Recommendation (3 generally recommended)
- Writing Sample
- Funding (e.g., scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans)

# Materials needed to apply

## Application

- Most applications are online and cost from \$70 - \$90 (fee waivers are available for some schools)
- CSULB application is composed of two parts: (1) Cal State Apply application and (2) separate application to specific program

## Transcripts

- Should be sent to each college you apply
- Send transcripts from each school you attended beyond high school (e.g., community college, CSULB)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What is the minimum GPA for graduate school?***
  - CSU system: 2.5 or higher
  - UC system: 3.0 or higher
  - Private schools: Varies
  
- ***Will I need to interview to get accepted to a program?***
  - Most masters programs do **not** require an interview
  - Examples of fields that may require an interview: counseling, K-12 teaching, business, and occasionally STEM fields

## Resources for GRE Prep

- **Paid services**
  - Magoosh – online service (\$79-179)
  - College of Professional & International Education (CPIE) – on campus (\$500)
  - Kaplan, Princeton Review, Manhattan Prep (\$800+)
- **Free test prep material**
  - Long Beach Public Library
  - Crunch Prep (33 free practice tests)
  - GSRC prep workshops

## *Frequently Asked Question*

- *What is an acceptable GRE score for applying to Ph.D. programs?*
  - Math & Verbal: typically **60<sup>th</sup> percentile** and above  
(score varies by test date)
  - Analytical Writing: generally **4.0+** (4.5+ for competitive programs)







## What role does the statement of purpose play in my application?

- GPA and Exam Scores are telling, but limited...
- Indicator of whether you “fit” within a program/field
- Sample of your ability to write
- Serves as a proxy for interview
- Can be the difference in getting accepted
- Opportunity to sell yourself!

## Materials needed to apply

### Statement of Purpose or Personal Statement (2-5 pages)

- Reviewed by admissions committee (i.e., faculty in your program)
- General areas to cover
  - Personal background (only if it is relevant)
  - Your educational / professional experience (e.g., work experience, research experience)
  - Why you are a good fit for the program
  - What you plan to contribute to your area of study/field
  - Your future professional goals

## Materials needed to apply

- Resume/CV (Curriculum Vitae)
  - Focus on academic/scholarly work – research, scholarly presentations (e.g., professional conference), professional affiliations (e.g., AERA, ASHE)
  - Include work/volunteer experience, particularly if relevant
  - Keep formatting simple
  - Have people in your network proofread

## Materials needed to apply

- Letters of Recommendation
  - Typically 3 required
  - Who to ask? Faculty, work/volunteer supervisors
  - How to ask? In-person (email, only if in-person is not possible)
  - What to provide recommender? A list with names of programs, deadlines, resume/CV, draft of statement of purpose
  - When to ask? 2 months before you need them

## Materials needed to apply

- Funding your graduate studies
  - Scholarships: on-campus and external scholarships
  - Grants (similar to scholarships): CSU students can receive University Grant covers most of tuition (approx. \$7k/year); need-based
  - Fellowships: may cover all tuition/fees and offer stipend; typically involves work as research assistant, intern, or teaching assistant (very common for doctoral studies)
  - Loans: Similar to undergrad loans, repayment begins 6 months after graduation

# How do I become a stronger applicant?

- Make your time at CSULB worthwhile...
    - Join clubs/organizations that support students on the path to grad school
    - Building your resume/CV through research experience, internships related to your field
    - Community service/volunteer work in your field
    - Research different graduate programs and offerings
    - Learn about the application process and create timeline
- Get an early start!

# How to Contact GSRC

## **Online Appointments**

Monday-Thursday: 10am-6pm

Friday: 9am-5pm

## **Website**

[www.csulb.edu/gsrc](http://www.csulb.edu/gsrc)

## **Email**

[gsrc@csulb.edu](mailto:gsrc@csulb.edu)