



LS-OKAMP



Graduate School:
Making the Decision





Getting Started

Talk to as many people as possible to assist you in making an informed decision.





People to Talk To

- Other undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Your faculty
- Parents & family
- Prospective employers





What is Graduate School?

- Training in research
- 1 1/2 to 2-year program (M.S.)
- 4 to 5-year program (Ph.D)
- Fewer classes per semester
- Courses focused in major area
- One-on-one faculty interaction





Why attend graduate school?

- Your career goals make graduate school necessary
- To specialize in a particular field
- To do research
- To broaden expertise in an area
- Better job, salary, & promotions
- To teach at a university





Options

- Go straight from undergraduate to graduate school
- Work full/part-time & school part-time
- Work now, school later
- Work for company that sends you back to school





Going Straight Through

- Easiest choice and workload
- Still in “learning mode”
- Can defer student loans
- Need to find ways to stay motivated





Work and School

- Longest option
- Larger workload
- Money is always nice





Work Now, School Later

- Hard to be a poor student again
- May have family obligation
- Heavy workload
- Maturity and work experience can be added value





Company Pays

- May limit choice of universities and areas of study
- Obligation to work for company upon completion
- Job security good
- Able to maintain steady income





Choosing a Graduate School

Explore several graduate schools that you would consider attending:

- Look for university's home page on WWW
- Write or call for information and catalog
- Don't overlook your current university





What to Consider

- Campus climate
- Resources Available
- Reputation/Prestige
- Housing
- Financial Aid





Departmental Information

- Areas of study to match your interests
- Faculty and their expertise/research
- Fellowships, assistantships available
- Teaching requirement
- Reputation





Entrance Requirements

- Competitive GPA
- Entrance Examinations





Application Process

- Application form
- Statement of Purpose
- Transcripts
- Entrance exam scores
- Letters of Recommendation





Funding Graduate School

- Graduate College Level
- Departmental Level
- Other Sources





Types of Aid

- Federally guaranteed loans
- Teaching assistantships
- Research assistantships
- Fellowships/scholarships
- Work-study
- Governmental, state, private





Timeline

Questions?

