Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)
Wednesday, September 25, 2013
3:15-4:30p.m. Maucker Union Ballroom

Welcome: Dr. Michael Licari
Dean of the Graduate College & Associate Provost of Academic Affairs

The Ins and Outs of Applying to Graduate School: Dr. Shoshanna Coon
Associate Dean for Graduate Academic Affairs

Graduate Faculty Panel:
Dr. Cindy Juby-Interim Head/MSW Program Director, Associate Professor of Social Work
Dr. Kim MacLin- Professor of Psychology
Dr. David Saunders-Department Head and Professor of Biology
Dr. Jennifer Waldron-Associate Professor, Physical Education

Graduate Program Fair:

Academic Programs:
- Athletic Training
- Biology
- Biotechnology
- Communication Studies
- Continuing and Distance Education
- Counseling: School Counseling and Mental Health Counseling
- Early Childhood Education
- English
- Geography
- Health Education
- History

Resources:
- Academic Learning Center
  - Writing Center
  - Examination Services
- Career Services
- Financial Aid
- Study Abroad
- Instructional Technology
- Mathematics
- MBA
- Physical Education: Kinesiology and Teaching/Coaching
- Psychology
- School Library Studies
- School Psychology
- Social Work
- Special Education
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Technology
- Women’s and Gender Studies
PLANNING TIMELINE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL:

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS
- Be active in career exploration activities such as volunteering and internships.
- Join and be active in student organizations.
- Attend the Career Fair and Thinking About Graduate School events in September.
- Explore graduate school related websites.

JUNIOR YEAR, FALL SEMESTER
- Attend Thinking About Graduate School, especially for the UNI Graduate Programs Fair.
- Decide on graduate program(s) that support your career goals.
- Develop a list of 5-10 values and criteria and identify 10-15 schools to match.
- Research and contact schools for application and materials.
- Determine what standardized entrance test to take and contact the Academic Learning Center for information on preparatory classes.

JUNIOR YEAR, SPRING SEMESTER
- Identify potential reference writers.
- Develop budget for application fees and other expenses.
- Continue to research schools and programs.
- Visit schools and meet with faculty, if possible.

SENIOR YEAR, FALL SEMESTER
- Attend Thinking About Graduate School for a last minute refresher!
- Take entrance exam, if not already completed.
- Consult with faculty and others regarding your school choices and apply to 5-8 schools.
- Finalize your personal statement and be ready to customize it for each application.
- Contact your references and give them copies of your resume and personal statement.
- Mail your application before the deadline.

SENIOR YEAR, SPRING SEMESTER
- Complete FAFSA to apply for financial aid after January 1.
- Prepare for interviews, if required.
- Assess offers, including financial aid.
- Make your decision, notify the school you accept their offer of admission and make your deposit to reserve your place, if necessary.
- Notify other schools you were admitted to that you won’t be enrolling.
- Write thank you letters to your reference writers.

TERMS TO KNOW:
- GRE: Graduate Record Exam. This exam is required for admission to many graduate programs around the country
- LSAT: Law School Admissions Test
- GMAT: Graduate Management Admissions Test for business program admission
- MCAT: Medical College Admissions Test
- LOR: Letter of Recommendation
- DAT: Dental Admissions Test
- OAT: Optometry Admissions Test
- PCAT: Pharmacy College Admissions Test
- VCAT: Veterinary College Admissions Test
- Admissions Essay: Required component of most graduate school applications. Typically it is written in response to specific questions.
- Personal Statement: A type of admissions essay discussing your personal goals and how/why graduate school (or professional school) will help you reach those goals as well as previous experiences that have led you to pursue graduate study in this field.
- Distance Education or Distance Learning: Allows taking classes and possibly earning a degree through the Internet
- Assistantship: A form of financial assistance provided to graduate students through part-time academic employment. Assistants are paid a stipend in exchange for tasks they perform
- Fellowship: Financial award that is given to graduate students based on academic and personal achievements. May or may not include a tuition waiver and is not paid for work performed.
- Thesis: Culminating document of a Master’s degree on the thesis plan. Requires collection of original data.
- Dissertation: Culminating document of a doctoral degree. Requires original research data. Generally several hundred pages in length.
- Research Paper: Culminating document of many non-thesis Master’s degrees. Typically not as long as a thesis and may not involve collection of original data.
- Admission Interview: Opportunity for an applicant to discuss features of their application beyond their transcript, essays, and standardized test scores. Not all programs offer admission interviews.
- Award Letter: A letter received by students who have applied for financial aid informing them of how much financial support they will receive.
- Tuition Assistance: May be in the form of a tuition scholarship, tuition waiver, or higher assistantship stipend, out of which the student pays tuition.