



Thinking About Grad School?



Individual Services at The Career Center

- **Individual Appointments**

Address your questions and concerns during a 30-minute session with a counselor.
Call (217) 333-0820 to schedule.

- **Career Drop-In Advising**

Spend 15 minutes with a Career Drop-In Advisor for quick questions, Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 5 PM during the regular semesters (not available in between semesters).

- **Mock Interviews**

Practice your skills for job, graduate school, or professional school interviews in a one-on-one appointment. Available during the academic year, schedule your interview in person or call The Career Center, at least 48 hours in advance.

Additional Services at The Career Center

- **Graduate School Prep Month**

October is graduate school prep month! Information on workshop dates, times, and registration can be found on The Career Center Website.

- **Graduate and Professional School Fair**

Held each fall, the fair offers an opportunity for all students, regardless of major or year in school, to meet with admissions representatives from various graduate and professional school programs.

- **The Career Center Website**

Check out the "*Prepare for Graduate School*" tab for additional information regarding how to become a competitive applicant, the application process, funding graduate school and more!

Other Campus Resources

- **Writers Workshop**

Learn how to self-revise and self/edit/proofread your own work.
(217) 333-8796
www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop

- **Testing Center**

Offers individual proctoring services for students to take high-stake licensing and college entrance exams such as: GMAT, GRE, MCAT, DAT, TOEFL, etc.
(217) 244-1342 or (217) 333-3706
<http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/testingcenter/>

- **Office of Minority Student Affairs**

Offers assistance with preparation for graduation school selection, application and entrance exams.
(217) 333-0054
www.omsa.illinois.edu

- **Office of Undergraduate Research**

Learn how to start or get involved with undergraduate research opportunities.
(217) 300-5453
<http://undergradresearch.illinois.edu/>



EXTERNAL RESOURCES

• Researching Graduate Programs

Peterson's Guide to Colleges and Universities: www.petersons.com

Gradschools.com: www.gradschools.com

• Document Organizing Resources

Interfolio: www.interfolio.com

A service that stores documents for graduate school, academic job searches and employment

• Funding Resources

Illinois Career Information System: ilcis.intocareers.org

Username: illinois

Password: careers

Go to *Education* tab → *Financial Aid Sort*

Becoming a Competitive Candidate

PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

• Major

Undergraduate majors and graduate programs are not perfectly correlated. If you intend to continue pursuing your field of study in graduate school, try to identify a couple sub-areas that you may focus on. If you are changing fields of study, prepare by taking relevant coursework and gaining extracurricular experiences.

• Solid Academic Record

GPA admission requirements differ among graduate programs. Selective programs will look to GPA, course difficulty, and academic trends over time to determine acceptance into their programs.

• Student Involvement

Extracurricular activities such as sports, professional organizations, and clubs help develop transferable skills that graduate programs will value. Examples of such skills include: initiative, teamwork, communication, leadership, responsibility, and perseverance.

• Research

Research may help you develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, quantitative analysis, and how to use the scientific method which are especially important if you are considering applying to doctoral programs.

• Work/Internships/Volunteering

Part-time/full-time jobs or volunteer work can help develop important skills while also allowing you to gain a perspective on what employment in your field of interest might entail. These opportunities can help clarify your professional goals.