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.