

Graduate School Information Session

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• Things to Think About...

- Your area of professional interest
 - Program philosophy and content
 - Reputation of prospective school: important for academia Masters
 - Requirements for prospective employment: for professional Masters programs
 - Further credentials
 - Full-time vs. Part-time study
 - Tuition
 - Acceptance cut offs
 - Distance Learning or 'brick & mortar
 - Location – provincial qualifications ie. The College of _____ of Ontario.
- Opportunity cost- time and money

Where to Begin Research?

Couple of Sources:

- UGH Grad School Fair, Oct 11th
- Career Service Coordinators
- UGH Professors
- UGH Alumni
- Read Maclean's Annual University Ranking
- Professional Body in your Industry
- Friends and Family
- Schoolfinder.com
- Distancelearningportal.com
- Universities Canada

Be careful of for-profit universities & diploma mills like Walden, Devry.





Masters, Post-Grad Certificate vs. Bachelors

- Relationships with faculty (more intimate)
- More independence in managing learning/time
- Deeper, more sophisticated analysis
- Delving deeper into a more focused topic area
- Contributes to the reputation of the graduate department and university as a whole
- Working as a TA/research= faculty
- Possibility to get promotion at work after your graduate studies
- Requirement to really engage with the studies/class
- Masters completion is 1-3 years. Part-time programs can take longer
- Choose between thesis & research based, course based, course+internship, course+capstone, major research paper, entryway to Ph.D, professional programs

• Variables that Distinguish Programs

Thesis: independent and original research- over 100 pages long. Defense of thesis

Major Research Paper

Coursework

Comprehensive exams

Internship or work experience

Purpose – training for a profession vs. advanced academic training

Program Concentrations

Notable Alumni

Faculty teaching and research interests: what the program is known for?

Other academic opportunities: research, state of the art facilities, attending conferences

• Traditional Masters Programs

Degree Requirements:

Course work

Thesis: less course work taken if you choose this route

At the same time:

Teaching Assistant

Research Assistant

Masters Assistant

Committees & Groups

Applying for funding

Conferences

• Finding Thesis Supervisor

Find supervisor (sometimes supervisor is assigned to you)

- Research faculty's research interests, teaching style, professional expertise in the field, how many students they have supervised, publication history
- Read the potential supervisor's published work
- Contact the chosen supervisor/s during your application process, to find out if they are accepting students. **Make sure school allows this!**
- Choose carefully, as you'd be working closely with this supervisor
- Reach out to your Graduate Program Director for general program info
- Approach faculty via email- initial step or through campus/department tour

• Thesis Process (simplified)

- Find topic and get it approved
- Conduct research: be well acquainted with existing scholarly works and journals
- Original critical analysis
- Write thesis: 35,000 words max, 130 pages
- Review
- Defend thesis in front of committee of 2-3 people(depending on program), to graduate

• Major Research Paper

- Not as long as a Thesis: about 60 pages, 15,000 words ****check guidelines for each school*****
- More about providing critical analysis of existing theories
- Could be original work but not necessarily
- Still need to work independently or with a co-author in a scholarly manner.
- Supervised by Faculty
- You need to take more courses than in a Thesis program

• Course-Based Masters

- Taking only courses
- Still need to write papers for your courses
- Field Placement component (sometimes)
- Capstone Project
- Appropriate for working professionals/professional career progression

• How To Choose?

- Academic Skills – Do I like papers, theory, analysis, debating?
- Grades- Do I have the grades required for admission?
- Professional Skills – Do I have the grounding for the skills in this profession?
- Research – Am I interested in doing further research? Do I have a new idea?
- Topic – Do I want to know more about this field? What do I want to specialize in?
- Career planning- do I need a graduate degree to advance in my career field? To work in management level?
- Time- Am I able to put in the time behind this degree?
- Money- Am I able to afford this?

Getting Program Info: talk to Alumni & Current Students

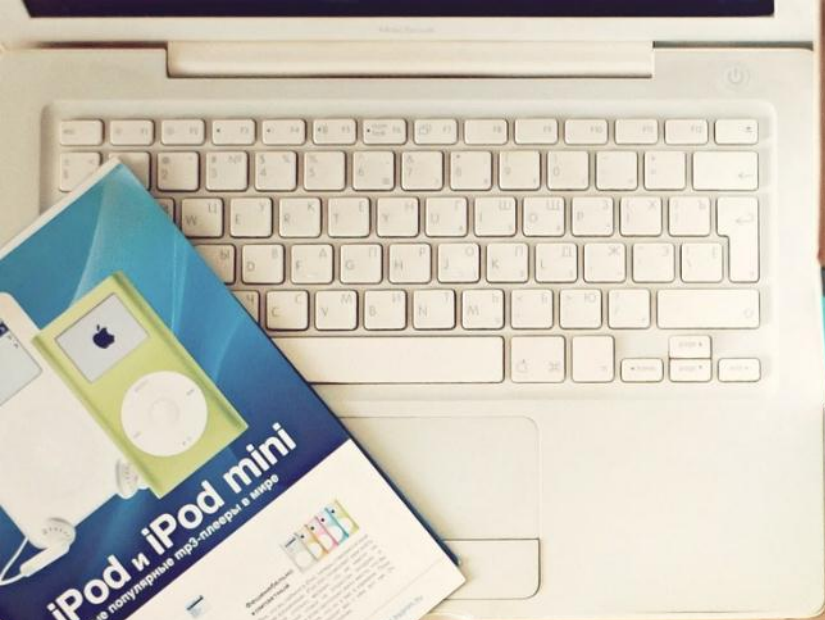
- What was your experience in this program like?
- How was your student life experience there? Your commute? Your resident experience?
- What would you have done differently?
- Can you give me your impressions of particular faculty members as supervisors?
- Did you get employed in your field after?

• Application Requirements

- Application Form
- Admission Test –GRE, GMAT, etc. (depending on program)
- Graduate Records Exam-GRE / Graduate Management Admission Test-GMAT
- Post-Secondary Transcript: **grad school require more than the min GPA**
- Faculty Advisor(s) who are willing to supervise your work
- Letter of Intent/Personal Statement- **must be well-written**
- Reference Letters- **2-3 academic references, 1 professional references**
- Resume & Cover Letter &/or Curriculum Vitae
- Funding/Scholarships- **i.e. Scholarships Canada**
- Application Fee- **budget**

Its time-consuming! Get started early, DO NOT leave it till the last minute

***Each school has different process, forms, requirements, admissions ***



PERSONAL STATEMENT



Personal Statement Example: University of Toronto MSW Program

What experiences motivate you to

- (a) become a social worker; or
- (b) continue your social work education?
- (c) Describe your skills and experiences (e.g. volunteer/work) that you believe are relevant to social work (with examples). In particular, please describe your experiences working with diverse and marginalized populations.
- (d) Describe your most substantial accomplishment and explain why you view it as such.
- (e) Discuss how you believe a social worker could work with a contemporary social problem of interest to you.
- (f) How do you think that the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work MSW program can benefit you and how do you think that you can contribute to the program? Please provide specific examples of how you will use your education in the future.

*** Some programs have clear questions & ask for specific things. Others can be more general & free-form***

• Personal Statement

- Be sure to follow directions
- Ask: Is this what I want them to know about me?
- Ensure you have evidence to back up what you are saying
- Clarity & being to the point
- Depth of understanding & Analytical
- Authentic: don't use clichéd terms
- Self awareness
- Explain if it is not an obvious fit
- Be aware of putting in controversial material: religion, politics, race, etc.
- Don't use gimmicks. Eg: coloured paper.
- Address concerns about your application: slightly lower GPA, etc.

A top-down photograph of a person's hand holding a white computer mouse on a green desk. To the left, a white keyboard is partially visible. Below the keyboard are several items of stationery: a silver pen, a black pen, a pair of black-handled scissors, and a black pen. A semi-transparent orange banner with the text "ENTRANCE EXAMS" is overlaid across the center of the image.

ENTRANCE EXAMS

GRE

- Graduate Record Examination. Costs \$205USD (extra cost for additional services)
- Standardized test for admissions to Masters & MBA programs globally
- Test is 3hrs 45mins long- with short breaks
- Measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning (high school-level math), analytical writing, and critical thinking
- Scores valid for 5 years

We have practice books in the Career Resource, GH108

Check the website to get a full list of schools in Canada & internationally, that require GRE scores: <https://www.ets.org/gre/revise/general/about>

GMAT

- GMAT - **Graduate Management Admission Test** - required for MBA programs worldwide.
- Test is 3.5hrs long: Analytical Writing (30mins); Integrated Reasoning (30mins); Quantitative (75mins); Verbal Reasoning (75mins).
- You can choose among 3 different section orders in your GMAT exam
- Test Waiver only provided if you meet some exceptions like grades, Executive MBA
- Cost= \$250.00USD (further fees for extra services)

We have practice books in the Career Resource, GH108

Official website for GMAT: <http://www.mba.com/global>

MCAT

- MCAT or Medical College Admission Test. **MANDATORY** for Med School
- MCAT changed since 2015: New changes delve into psycho-social determinants of health, primary prevention methods in promoting health outcomes, socio-cultural values
- MCAT tests for: *problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of natural, behavioral, and social science concepts and principles*
- MCAT now has 4 sections, multiple choice:
Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior- *new section*
Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills: **comprehension, inference, reasoning, context**
- Cost= \$310.00-365.00USD

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Official website for MCAT: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>

• LSAT

- Law School Admissions Test- **MANDATORY** for Canadian & US Law Schools
- Five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions:
 1. the reading and comprehension of complex text with accuracy and insight
 2. the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it
 3. the ability to think critically
 4. the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others

• LSAT con'td

- 4 of the 5 sections contribute to the test taker's score
- The unscored section, commonly referred to as the variable section, typically is used to pre-test new test questions. You won't know which one it is. 35mins long.
- Do practice tests. Give yourself time to practice
- Test dates in Canada:
http://www.oxfordseminars.ca/LSAT/lSAT_information.php
- LSAT does not score the writing sample, but copies of the writing sample are sent to all law schools to which you apply
- Cost= \$180USD + extra fees
- ***We have practice books in the Career Resource, GH108***

• What are Reference Letters?

- Letters written by academic (professors) and professional (placement supervisor) who can attest to your skills as a student, as a professional in-training & general work ethics, transferable skills.
- Review instructions for letters of recommendation. **Your application will be in the “NO” pile, if you do not.**
- **Give this plenty of time!**
- Prepare a folder for each faculty member with the following:
 - stamped and addressed envelopes
 - any necessary forms
 - photocopy of your transcript
 - a reminder paragraph
 - instruction sheet
 - curriculum vitae

Post-Graduate Certificate OR Diploma in Colleges or Universities

May appeal to individuals considering...

- Cost (How much can you afford?): cheaper than Masters degree
- Time Commitment (How much time can you commit to education at this point in your life?): 6months to 1 year
- Give credentials for your job quickly and effectively: placements in your certificate program, taught by faculty who are employed in the field.

• Going Abroad?

- Universities offering graduate school in your line of interest
- Be sure to do your research as to whether it is an institution that is recognized by the professional accrediting body in Canada- if you intend to return and work in this field.
- Regional and global reputation of the school.
- Go Abroad Fair: October 1, 2017 @ the Metro Toronto Convention Center
- Check websites like 'Across the Pond' for studying in UK.
- UGH partnership with City Law School, London, UK.

Remember...

1 Accreditation

4 Funding

2 Fit with your needs

5 Student Life & Alumni

3 Time Management

6 Cast your net wide

Seeking Further Support?

<p>Career Services Coordinator</p> <p>GH 108, Drop-In or Appointment</p> <p>416-798-1331 x 6288</p> <p>career@guelphhumber.ca</p>	<p>Faculty</p> <p>Speak to them about their educational experiences.</p> <p>Academic References</p>	<p>Alumni</p> <p>UGH Alumni mentors through the Alumni Mentorship Program</p>
<p>Network</p> <p>Talk to industry professionals at UGH Networking Fairs, conferences, LinkedIn</p>	<p>Career Support Peer (CSP)</p> <p>Can help sourcing out grad school according to your UGH program</p>	<p>Grad School Fair</p> <p>October 11, 2017 from 11am-3pm</p> <p>Atrium</p> <p>Close to 30 schools coming</p>

See Yourself Here

ECS=> Medicine, Family Law, Occupational Therapy, ABA Therapist, SLP, Art/Dance/Music Therapist, Child Life, Social Worker, Children's Museum/Library, Children's Books/Publishing, Children's-based business owner, Health Administration, Childcare center Owner/Operator

FCSS=> Medicine, Law, Paralegal, Social Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Communications, Event Planning, HR, Corporate, Gov't, Urban Planning, Health Administration

Psychology=> Medicine, Law, HR, Retail Mgmt, Therapy, Social Worker, Gov't, Health Administration, Labour Relations, Wedding Planner, Travel Agent, Paralegal, Mental Health & Addictions

See Yourself Here

Business=> Law, Medicine, HR, Non Profit Mgmt, Social Entrepreneurship, Green Industry careers, Urban Planning, Gov't (finance, strategy, procurement, etc), Health Administration, Labour Relations

Justice Studies=> Social Work, Urban Planning, Teaching, Fraud & Security department at banks, Gov't, Private Eye, Community Justice/non-profits

Media Studies=> Librarian, Museum Careers, Communications, Gov't, Teaching, Art Therapist, Business Owner, Event Planner

Kinesiology=> Medicine, Public Health, Nutritionist/Dietician, Health Writer, Health Administration, Occupational Therapy, Business Owner

Grad School Fair- Schools

Universities

- University of Toronto
- Queens University
- York University
- University of Guelph
- Brock University
- Lakehead University
- Trent University
- Nipissing University
- OCAD University
- UOIT
- Tyndale U- Education
- Royal Roads University

Colleges

- Humber College
- Seneca College
- Centennial College
- Fanshawe College
- Conestoga College

Professional School

- York Schulich School of Business
- Ryerson Ted Rogers School of Mgmt
- Queen's Business
- Western Ivey Business
- University of Windsor Business School
- Michener Institute of Applied Health
- Sutherland Chan School of Massage Therapy
- Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College

• Said by Winston Churchill

Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.





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