Graduate school constitutes an advanced program of study focused on a particular academic discipline or profession. Traditionally, graduate school has been “academic” (centered on generating original research in a particular discipline), but it may be “professional” (centered on developing skills and knowledge for a specific profession), or a combination of both (University of California-Berkley).

Helpful Websites

Purdue University
http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/students/prospective/resources.cfm

Stanford University
http://www.stanford.edu/dept/humsci/cgi-bin/gus/content/diversity-grad-prep

UC San Diego
http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/graduate-programs/grad-school-prep/index.html

McNair Program
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html

Committee of Intuitional Cooperation (C.I.C.)
http://www.cic.net/home

C.I.C. Summer Research Program

C.I.C. Free App
http://www.cic.net/students/freeapp/introduction

Graduate School Preparation Checklist

Academic & Learning Services
Lower Level Wege
616.632.2165
## Graduate School Preparation Checklist

### May-August
- Explore graduate programs
- Request information from schools that interest you
- Review GRE PowerPrep [gre.org](http://gre.org)
- Draft your personal statement

### September
- Narrow graduate program choices
- Register to take GRE
- Contact your list of recommenders
- Continue to work on personal statement

### October
- Take GRE or other entrance exam (LSAT, MCAT, GMAT)
- Order transcripts
- Ask writing consultants and peers to review and provide feedback on personal statements
- Send supplemental information to recommenders

### November
- Fill out application forms
- Put finishing touches on personal statement

### December
- Submit application materials
- Make sure recommendations have been sent

### January
- Ensure schools received your applications
- Begin researching options for financial funding

### February
- Fill out FAFSA
- Complete all forms for financial assistance

  *Commitment and self-discipline are essential to doing well in graduate school.*

### March
- Submit FAFSA

### April
- Accept or decline offers of admission

Review faculty research and publications when considering Graduate School.