

THE QUESTIONS

- Is graduate school for me?
- How do I apply?
- How do I choose among the schools that accept me?
- How do I support myself during graduate study?

Tailor your preparation for applying.

- General preparation
 - Take substantive courses.
 - Get good grades.
 - Get to know professors.
 - Participate in “techni-activities” outside the classroom

NOTE: This preparation is the same for jobs.

Tailor your preparation for applying.

- Decide what type of school fits your goals
 - General reputation
 - Particularly good in your area(s) of interest

Apply to several schools

- A couple which are a stretch
- A couple of “sure things”
- Three or so in the middle

What are top-tier graduate schools looking for in an application?

- Broad-based CS background
- Research potential

How do I show broad-based CS background?

- Transcript with good grades
- GRE subject exam
- Personal statement
- Letters of reference

How do I show research potential?

- Do a research project
- Ask references to be certain to address research potential
- Personal statement

The application itself

- Application form
- Transcript
- GREs
- Personal statement
- Letters of reference

Good web sites for references on applying:

- GRE

<http://www.ets.org/>

- SOP

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/~arun/grad/sop.html>

- Graduate study

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/Grad>

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/oleary/gradstudy>

How do I choose?

- Get as much information as possible.
- Ask to be put in touch with professors.
- Ask to be put in touch with current students.
- Criteria
 - Best in general
 - Best in my area
 - Feels right to me

How do I support myself during graduate study?

Three types of financial assistance

- Teaching assistantship
- Research assistantship
- Fellowship