



Applying to Graduate School:

What to do first?

Preparing for and Applying to graduate school

A few questions you might be asking yourself:

- How do I choose a school?
 - How do I apply?
 - How do I decide among the schools that accept me?
 - How do I support myself while attending grad school?

Preparing

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building. The building is characterized by a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the structure, which creates a sense of scale and grandeur. The overall tone is warm and historical.

Before you apply:

- Define your goals
 - What areas interest you
- Analyze schools based on your goals
 - Look at the academic reputation of different schools
 - How good are the programs in your area(s) of interest
 - How do they compare to other schools

Applying

- How many applications should you send
- What do schools look for in an application
- What are the items included in an application



Applying

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building. It features a prominent portico with several tall, fluted columns supporting a decorative entablature. The building's facade is detailed with architectural elements like arches and balustrades. The overall tone is historical and academic.

How many applications should you send?

Apply to several different schools:

- Two or three that are slim possibilities
- Two or three that are “sure things”
- Two or three that could “go either way”

Applying

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What do schools look for in an application?

Top-tier graduate schools usually look for:

- Broad-based Computer Science background
- Research potential

Applying

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How to show a broad-based CS background:

- Stellar grades on your transcript
- Take the GRE Subject exam
- Your Personal Statement
- Letters of Reference

Applying

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building. It features a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. The building's facade is detailed with architectural elements like cornices and balustrades. The overall atmosphere is one of historical and academic significance.

How to show research potential:

- Do a research project
- Ask your references to address your research potential
- Your personal statement

Applying

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What are the items included in an application?

- The Application Form
- Transcript
- GREs
- Personal Statement
- Letters of Reference

Applying

Good web sites for references on applying:

- GRE

<http://www.ets.org>

- Statement of Purpose

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

- Graduate Study

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

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

Accepting

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building. The building is characterized by a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the structure, which creates a sense of scale and grandeur. The overall tone is warm and historical.

How to choose among the offers:

- Get as much information from the school as possible
- Ask for contact information for the professors
- Ask for contact information for current students
- Criteria:
 - The best school in general
 - The best school in your area
 - The one that feels right

Financial Assistance

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building with a series of tall, fluted columns and a pedimented roof. The building is partially obscured by the text overlay.

There are three types of financial assistance:

- Teaching assistantship (\$14,929 – \$15,503)*
- Research assistantship (\$15,503 - \$16,652)*
- Fellowship (vary)

* Plus tuition for up to 10 credits and health insurance

Good Luck!!

