

# Graduate School

## The Application Process



# Preparing to Apply

- Define your goals
  - What do you want to do?
- Research universities based on your goals
  - Academic reputation
  - Quality of the specific program in your area of interest
  - Ranking in comparison with other universities and programs



# The Application

What is included?

- Application form
- Transcripts
- Test scores (GRE, subject GRE)
- Personal Statement
- Letters of recommendation



# The Application

What are schools looking for in the applications?

- Comprehensive Computer Science background
- Research potential
- Strong letters of recommendation



# The Application

How to demonstrate a comprehensive CS background:

- Stellar grades
- GRE Subject exam
- Personal statement
- Letters of recommendation



# The Application

How you can demonstrate research potential:

- Include previous research projects
- Have your recommenders address your potential in their letters
- Personal statement



# The Application

How many universities should you apply to?

Several:

- Two or three slim possibilities
- Two or three "sure things"
- Two or three "could go either way"



# Accepting an offer

## How to choose among the offers:

- Get as much information from the school as possible:
  - Contact information for professors
  - Contact information for current students
  - Arrange for a campus visit
- Criteria:
  - The best school in general
  - The best school in your area of interest
  - The one that you feel is best



# Financial Assistance

There are three types of financial assistance:

- Teaching assistantship (\$15,800 – \$17,100)\*
- Research assistantship (\$16,400 - \$18,300)\*
- Fellowship (vary)

\* Plus tuition for up to 10 credits and health insurance



# Financial Assistance

## Example:

- 218 graduate students registered this semester
- 199 are fulltime students
- 80% of our students receive a form of financial assistance
- Generally employ 50 – 55 teaching assistants per semester
- 120 - 125 students are research assistants



# References

Websites for additional information:

## **GRE**

<http://www.ets.org>

## **Statement of Purpose**

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

## **Graduate Study**

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

<http://www.union.umd.edu/GH/>

[http://www.quintcareers.com/grad\\_school.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/grad_school.html)

