How to Make the Most of the Graduate & Professional School Fair

BRADLEY University
Smith Career Center
General

Before the Fair

• Research programs/school before the fair (faculty info, research programs, curriculum, number of successful grads)
• Practice what you will say about yourself
• Prepare specific questions
• Dress appropriately – *first impressions are lasting ones*

At the Fair

• Shake hands, introduce yourself (year in school, major, area(s) of interest, etc.)
• Don’t forget to visit tables listing “multiple programs”
• Ask about on-campus visit days or summer programs
• Review printed materials provided by school/program
• If applicable, send a thank-you note after the event
Freshmen

- **Deciding on a career/educational pathway**
- Explore MULTIPLE types of programs
- How long is your program? How is it structured?
- What are the prerequisites for admission? (Use this information for schedule planning)
- What are the qualifications of admitted students? (Use this information to set personal goals for GPA, entrance exam, etc.)
- Learn the lingo and terminology of your field
Sophomores

• **Decide if you are competitive or when to apply**
• Explore multiple programs related to your goal
• What are the qualifications of admitted students? (Would you be a competitive applicant?)
• Beyond prerequisites & academics, what other experiences or qualifications are you looking for?
• How many students apply? Are interviewed? Are admitted?
• **Challenge**: Identify 1-2 other types of programs/professions as potential “Plan B” and learn more about them
Juniors/Seniors

• **Deciding where to apply...**
  • What sets your program apart from other programs?
    – Curriculum, Extracurricular opportunities, Student support, lab resources, other unique items, etc.
  • What kind of applicants are a good fit for your program?
  • Success of graduates
    – Pass rates on licensing/board/bar exams
    – Job/Residency placement of graduates
  • Cost, financial aid, scholarships, etc.
  • Do you have an open house or campus visit event?
Current Applicants

• Visit tables for every school to which you have applied
• Know status of your application BEFORE arriving
• What is your timeline for interviews
• When might I expect to hear a decision post-interview?
• How long will I have to respond to an offer?
• Housing? Orientation?
• Recommendations for re-applicants?
Suggested Questions for Graduate/Professional School Representatives

- How would you describe the atmosphere at your school?

- Does your committee favor a particular type of personal statement?

- Does your institution provide academic support to students? Is it open to all students or only to students who are in academic jeopardy?