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

2014
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. Travel independently.
- “What is your role at the university?”
- Don’t forget to visit tables listing “multiple programs.”
- On-campus visit days or summer programs.
- Review printed materials provided by school/program.
- Thank-you note
Freshmen

- **Deciding on a career/educational pathway**
  - Explore MULTIPLE types of programs
  - How long is your program? How is it structured?
  - What are the pre-requisites 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
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 pre-requisites & 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.
Deciding where to apply…
- What sets your program apart from other programs?
  - Curriculum, Extracurriculars, Student support, 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?