



## Office of Academic Advising and Student Services

### **Planning for Life After GW – A Brief Guide**

You may find the following links and information useful as you consider what you will do after graduating from the Elliott School. This brief guide is designed to help you take advantage of campus resources and to get you thinking about life after GW. Maybe you know exactly what you want to do after graduation, or maybe you have no idea what comes next; use these resources to get yourself on track or to further focus your preparations. Keep in mind that faculty members and internship or job supervisors can also be great sources of information as you plan your next move.

#### **The GW Career Center**

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/>

In addition to helping students find employment while at GW, the Career Center offers a range of services to students and alumni seeking full-time employment. From personal career counseling to resume critiques and mock interviews, the Career Center can help get your job search moving. This office also maintains GWork, a database of internship and job opportunities, holds recruiting events, and can help you network with employers and GW alumni.

#### **University Counseling Center**

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServicesAndAcademicSupport/CareerCounseling/>

The University Counseling Center offers programs and information on how to navigate career planning. The Career Decisions workshop is the first place for most students to learn more about themselves and how to make choices about majors and careers. If you are unable to attend the workshop, you may seek individual career counseling. The Counseling Center website also provides valuable career development links, including computerized career assessments and information about graduate schools.

#### **GW Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research**

<http://www.gwu.edu/%7Efellcent/>

The Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research assists all GW undergraduates interested in pursuing national fellowships that recognize academic and extracurricular excellence. These fellowships provide remarkable opportunities for students interested in further academic study, as well as for those pursuing careers in public service, teaching, scientific research, engineering, journalism, international relations and a host of other fields.

## **Graduate and Professional Study**

### *Gathering Information on Campus*

The Annual Graduate & Professional School Fair, sponsored by local universities and held at GW each fall, is a valuable opportunity for you to explore your graduate and law school options. It is a free two-day recruiting event where students can meet representatives from over 300 graduate, professional and law schools and attend panels relevant to the graduate and professional school application process.

Even if you can't attend the fair, the event's website (<http://www.gwu.edu/gradfair/>) contains useful information on the graduate and professional school application process. Topics include:

- Timetable for applying to graduate/professional school: <http://gradfair.gwu.edu/timetable.htm>
- Differences between graduate/professional programs and undergraduate programs: <http://gradfair.gwu.edu/differences.htm>
- Sources of financial support: <http://gradfair.gwu.edu/sources.htm>  
(Also see above information on the GW Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research for funding and fellowship information.)

If you are interested in law school or the health professions, you should contact GW's pre-law or pre-health advisor. These advisors are housed in the Columbian College Advising Office, but they serve all GW students: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ccas/ugrad/aboutus.html>.

While there is no office at GW that provides graduate school advising for other kinds of degrees, there are many helpful resources on campus. Again, professors are great resources; they have been through the graduate school process and understand what it entails. Whether you're set on a degree and a discipline or if you're floating different ideas, faculty members can help you explore your options and advise you on how to proceed with your search for the right graduate program. You may want to talk to professors you've had for a class, or you can contact those who you don't necessarily know but who are in a department in which you may want to pursue advanced study.

As noted above, the University Counseling Center website also includes graduate school information and can provide counseling that will help you determine how graduate school might fit into your long-term plans.

If you're curious about how a graduate degree would fit into your career plans, you may want to consult the Career Center (see above). The Career Center is not equipped to advise you on the details and strengths of specific programs, but its career consultants can discuss how graduate study would fit into a professional context.

The Career Center can also provide some relevant brochures and pamphlets. Gelman Library (<http://www.gwu.edu/gelman/about.html>) has a limited selection of guide books. These materials are located near the reference section. Most bookstores sell a variety of guidebooks, and you can find information on specific programs on their websites.

If you are considering applying to a graduate program at GW, or if you just want a taste of what it would be like to apply, consider attending an information session for one of GW's graduate programs: ([http://www.gwu.edu/~gradinfo/Grad\\_fields.cfm](http://www.gwu.edu/~gradinfo/Grad_fields.cfm)).

### *The Graduate School Application*

Most graduate programs require standardized testing. It is imperative that you determine the testing requirements of programs to which you are applying. Some require a specific exam, such as the LSAT (<http://www.lsac.org/LSAC.asp?url=lsac/about-the-lsat.asp>) for law school or the GMAT

(<http://www.mba.com/mba/TaketheGMAT/TheEssentials/WhatIsTheGMAT/GMATOverviewNEW.htm>) for business school. Many master's and doctoral programs require the GRE (<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.fab2360b1645a1de9b3a0779f1751509/?vgnnextoid=b195e3b5f64f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>).

You should make sure you leave yourself time to study for, take, and if necessary, re-take the relevant exam(s) before submitting applications. Some students study for these tests on their own, while others prefer to take a test preparation course.

Your transcript is a vital part of your graduate school application. The Office of the Registrar provides official transcripts: <http://www.gwu.edu/%7eregweb/web-content/transcripts.html>. Keep in mind that some programs will require official transcripts from every institution you have attended, which includes courses taken through study abroad programs and summer or other coursework completed for transfer credit. You must contact those institutions for official transcripts; GW may not release copies to other schools.

Most applications require a statement of purpose and/or admissions essays. The Writing Center (<http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/>) is available to help with these essays.

Some applications also require a resume. The Career Center (see above) provides pointers and offers resume critiques: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/StudentsAlumni/careerdevelopment/ResumeCritique/>.

### *Additional Resources*

Yale University graduate school resource website:

<http://www.yale.edu/career/students/gradprof/gradwhy.html>

University of Pennsylvania graduate school resource website:

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/gradprof/grad/gradappprocess.htm>

GradSchools.com

<http://www.gradschools.com/>

U.S. News and World Report

[http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex\\_brief.php](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex_brief.php) (Not the definitive guide to the best schools, but it can be a useful launching point.)

Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs  
<http://www.apsia.org/apsia/index.php>