

Advice for getting into grad school for MS, PhD programs in Biology, Organismal Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences (not medical programs)

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KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLYING

- #1 - Know **WHY** you are going to grad school.
Do your homework. Be able to talk about your future goals.
- #2 - Know what you are applying to **THAT** grad school.
Do your homework. Know the program and make a case as to why *you* fit *there*, and how that program helps you meet your future goals
- #3 - Know if you have to apply to a particular professor or lab. Rotations?
Do your homework. Read their work, contact them, and contact their current and former grad students.
Are they happy or miserable? How did that program work for them?
- #4 - **Begin your journey** towards grad school WHILE AN UNDERGRAD.
(GPA, GRE, coursework, building experiences + skill sets, the role of recommendation letters from faculty)
- #5 - Understand the **financial** landscape.
In grad school in the biological sciences you will likely receive financial support (tuition waiver, living stipend) in exchange for your labor (teaching or research). Additional jobs are often prohibited if you are accepting this financial package.
- #6 - Know the **competitive** landscape of getting INTO grad school.
- #7 - **AIM AS HIGH AS YOU CAN!** It will pay off.

from 1999, pretty old, but VERY VERY useful
A Primer on How to Apply to and Get Into Grad School, by Walt Carson @UPitt
<https://www.esa.org/esa/education-and-diversity/ecology-as-a-career-2/>

More on what to expect from a PhD program in particular
http://www.biology.utah.edu/graduate/grad_advice.php

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