

Questions To Ask Any Graduate Program

1. What do you teach here? [ie: theoretical and/or methodological orientation(s)]
2. What is the largest and the most typical class size for a graduate class? Are classes restricted to graduate students? Majors?
3. What would be the advantages and disadvantages to going to graduate school immediately after completing an undergraduate degree? The advantages and disadvantages of waiting a few years? The best use of interim time?
4. What are the criteria and process for selecting TAs, RAs, and Fellows?
5. What facilities are available for graduate students? (computers/labs/studios)
6. What is the mean time to complete (a) classwork, (b) research, (c) thesis or dissertation? (That is, what is the mean time to complete the master's or Ph.D.?)
7. What is your attrition rate? Of those who do not finish, what are their reasons?
8. What kind of student thrives in your program?
9. How reliable is your financial support year to year? Is the first-year offer always sustained, given attainment of academic goals?
10. What are the age range, gender balance, ratio of married/single, and geographic origins of graduate students in the program?
11. May I have some bibliographies of recent publications of faculty? Which professors have won awards and grants lately? (These presumably need graduate assistants.)
12. Can you tell me about your placement rates and types of jobs obtained by recent graduates? (*Avoid* relying on testimonials and anecdotal evidence.)
13. May I meet some currently enrolled students? (In person, or later via phone or email; be sure to ask about the student's research topics and *be sure to take notes on specific professors mentioned.*)
14. May I "sit-in" on a graduate level class session?
15. How can I be a strong candidate for a program like this?

Also remember to write some of your own questions, that relate to your particular academic interest areas, which you will utilize when speaking with individual professors.

(Adapted by Dr. Dee Southard of Southern Oregon University, 2009, from Donald Asher [Graduate Admissions Essays](#), 2000.)