

## General Body Meeting 4 Minutes

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- **Welcoming**

- Food: Comida Colombiana!!

- **Grad School Presentation Overview**

- Make sure to find and pick a school that is a good fit for you and has the very thing you want to get out of graduate school...you guys know the spiel

- **Graduate School Panel**

- *What was the deciding factor when choosing a grad school to attend?*

- A lot of people jumped on the opportunity to stay

- *Why grad school over going directly to work?*

- Had done internships and decided that working at a company was not as attractive as remaining in school and doing more research-based projects
    - People who have higher degrees are known to have more mastery in their field

- *Which is more important when choosing a grad school: the research available or a strong department?*

- Department. There have been a few instances when people choose a college for a specific research project only to have the professor that they wanted to work with leave to another campus. Don't bet your chances on probability

- *What are the distinctions between Masters and PhD?*

- A Masters program is easier to get into
    - Masters/PhD programs are not to be taken lightly. A lot of people are overly ambitious and don't realize how much work such a program turns out to be. A good analogy is to that of incoming freshman wanting to double major and how they don't realize that getting one major is difficult enough.
    - Easier to go from PhD to Masters than vice versa

- *What is something you would have done differently as an undergraduate?*

- Not have double majored because it was not worth the amount of time that had to be put in
- Collaborated more and researched more my department because I felt as though I don't know of all the types of research that are going on in my field
- *Do you recommend taking time off after getting a Bachelors or continuing right after?*
  - Depends on the major. Field experience is a useful trait when doing a Masters in business or urban planning for example, but it really doesn't make a difference if you want to pursue further education in biology – because sciences tend to be more theoretical
- *How does someone succeed in grad school?*
  - Keep consistently working, because you sometimes only take two classes with not very many problem sets – so you need to maintain balance. That is, you get little work, but labor-intensive work, such that you can't finish it as fast as you think, you need to apportion your time uniformly
- *If I have a hard time balancing time now, will I have a hard time in grad school?*
  - Since grad school is mainly to do research – professors acknowledge that, and thus, classes are not as intense. So the problem in grad school is not a whole bunch of work at once, but work that you need to consistently do over time. So don't worry too much if you feel overwhelmed by work while being an undergraduate...it's natural
- *How do you get a letter of recommendation from the professor you want?*
  - Stalk them, and do it on a regular basis!! The more they know you on a personal basis, the better
- *Should you choose a grad school because of the money you'll be getting or the research being done?*
  - You going to be researching a lot of your time – you will eventually get tired of it and end up switching or leaving if you just chose it for the money
- *How many grad schools should I apply to?*
  - Depends on you, but our panel did the following:
    - Eight for John Pope

- The other two both applied to one only – wouldn't recommend it
  - The idea of a safety school does not apply to graduate school, apply to the schools you want to go to. You don't just go to grad school to go to grad school, you continue your education because you want to – so make sure you only apply to schools you actually want to go to
- *Can I use Masters program as a stepping-stone for a PhD program?*
  - If you're having trouble getting into a PhD program at a school you want, try for the masters and excel in it and eventually go for the PhD after the Masters program
- *Is it worth getting a PhD if I am not interested in teaching or research?*
  - It does state to the world that you have mastery on the material, but depending on the path you choose, a bachelors can take you just as far as a PhD. Computer Science is one example
- *Last recommendations*
  - Give a lot of time for your recommenders to write the letters of recommendation because they probably have more important things to do, in their opinion, than your letter of recommendation
  - Study for the GRE, early and consistently, it really helps out when you get to the test, very similar questions
- **Laureates and Leaders**
  - Consider joining Laureates and Leaders, which helps you with preparing for the grad school application process, as well as teaches you how to go about filling out grad applications – thus makes sure you have a high chance of getting into the grad schools of your choice