Evaluating Graduate Schools

To find the perfect school requires a great deal of research. Use as many resources as possible to find the best school for YOU!

Graduate School Research

Online Resources

http://www.petersons.com
http://www.collegesource.org
http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com
http://www.graduateguide.com

CASC Library

US News School Rankings
Specific Graduate Guides (Psychology, MBA, Etc.)
Peterson’s Graduate School Guides

Personal Ranking System

Instructions

► The first row represents different criterion that are important in a school.
► In the second row represents how important each criterion is on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the least and 10 being the most.)
► Score the criterion of each school from 1-10 based on your research and evaluation.
► To calculate the Weighted Quality Scores, multiply the number you assigned to each criteria of each school (b) by the previously assigned value score of the corresponding criteria (a), sum the products \([(a*b) + (a*b) \ldots]\).
► Each School’s final score can be compared and ranked according to the highest Weighted Quality Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value Scores(a):</th>
<th>USU(b)</th>
<th>U of U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>location</td>
<td>size</td>
<td>facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career & Academic Success Center•2590 WSC•801-422-2689
Important Graduate School Criteria
(These suggestions vary among individuals and their personal priorities)

Admission Requirements:
1. How competitive is admission? What are admission requirements (GPA, work experience, classes, test scores)?
2. Does the program favor applicants with work experience or those who are recent graduates?

Curriculum:
1. Does the program meet your needs for educational and professional goals?
2. Is a thesis or a final exam required? Is there some sort of practical experience or internship included?
3. How long is the program?

Reputation/Quality of Program:
1. What is the reputation of the school?
2. Is the program accredited?

Placement:
1. How many students in the program finish?
2. How many of the graduates find employment in their field and does the department assist students in this process?

Faculty:
1. What is the faculty/student ratio? Is the faculty committed to teaching, research, or both?
2. What is the philosophy of the department?
3. Are the faculty well-known and what have they published recently?

Location/Size:
1. Do you want to attend a large or small school?
2. In what geographic area would you like to attend school?
3. Is there graduate housing available? What public transportation is available?

Cost/Financial Aid:
1. What is the cost of the program? What are the hidden costs?
2. How much financial assistance is available in the form of assistantships, loans, and fellowships?

WARNING: BEWARE OF RANKINGS
Although rankings are available and convenient, beware of the biases they contain. Rankings typically focus on prestige and reputation of universities rather than those factors that you may consider more important. For additional information on ranking visit these websites:
Personal Ranking System