



HOW TO GET INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL

BY: ARNOLD A. & SERAH S.



AGENDA

- The Graduate School Experience
- Finding a Graduate School
- Application Process
- Typical Application Timeline
- Funding Opportunities
- Guest speaker: Katerina Disimino, BS
- Q & A



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

UNDERGRAD VS GRAD



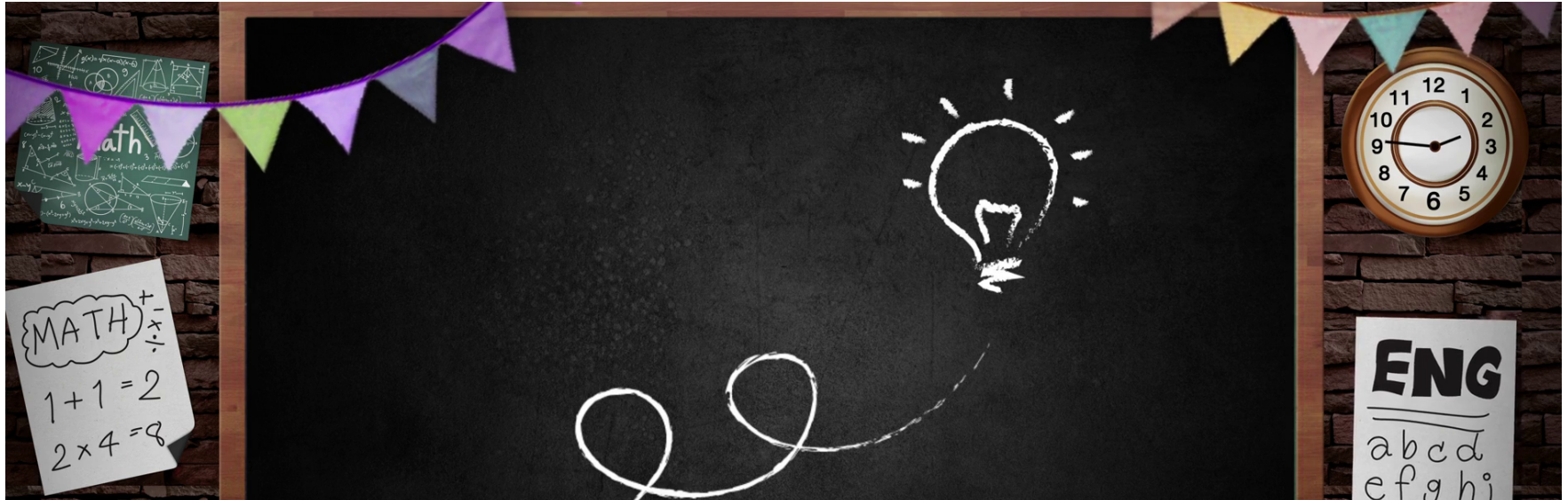
More seminar-type courses, especially at the advanced level



More papers, projects, presentations,
Fewer tests
(varies according to program)



More research-oriented (for thesis-based study)



Increased specialization - narrowing of subject matter studied



Greater independence



Less short-term feedback about how you're doing academically

**3
OPTIONS
TO
CONSIDER**

1. Direct Entry Ph.D
2. Thesis Based vs. Course Based
3. Length of the Program



FINDING A GRADUATE SCHOOL

5 Ws + H

WHERE TO

Internet Searches

- Use a variety of key words
- Look at school's website
- Search for both specific and broad program names

People

- Mentors
- Current Graduate Students
- Advisors

Professional Associations

- Websites
- Conferences
- Journals

WHY NOW?

To Find Out Important Information on:

Required Classes

Some programs require undergraduate courses as prerequisites

Tests and Cut-Off Scores

Some programs require a test (e.g. GRE, GMAT)

Cut-off scores narrow down applicant pool for interviews



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

PREPARATION IS KEY

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET

- ▶ Application Form
- ▶ Letter of recommendation (2-3)
- ▶ Personal Statement
- ▶ Transcript
- ▶ Standardized Test Scores
- ▶ Writing and Portfolio Samples

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ▶ Be specific in your goals and intentions
- ▶ Write a separate letter for each school

Schools may have different essay instructions; follow them carefully!

Mention specific details of the school's program

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Typical Essay Requirements

General Essay: Background, future plans, why this school etc.

Research Essay

Specific research interest

Questions in research field

Why these questions?

Articles you read that spark interest

PERSONAL STATEMENT

This is a chance to sell yourself. Take your time and write it well!

Convince the school that they want you as a graduate student

You may already be ranked before your interview



ASK A PROFESSOR FOR FEEDBACK

THEY HAVE BEEN THERE! THEY MAY EVEN BE ON THE COMMITTEES !

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

A STRONG letter should come from a Professor OUTSIDE of class

Letters show your:

- Problem-solving skills

- How well you collaborate

- Your character

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Why are you asking them? (e.g., I had a connection with you when I took your course because I found you to be an incredible teacher!)

Your assets

Your weaknesses and how you grew (or are trying to grow) from them

Weave in your experiences (e.g., I'm independent. When I worked in X, I was responsible for Y. I handled situations independently.)

SENDING YOUR APPLICATIONS

Write a CV (curriculum vitae) to include all your experience and awards

Double and triple check your packages to make sure they're completed

Mail applications should arrive TWO WEEKS before the deadline

Call and confirm receipt of your application ONE WEEK before the

deadline

EXPENSES

Transcript (*~\$15-20 to request at York; no fees if you are York student and you are applying to York*)

Test scores (*if applicable*)

Application fees (*typically midway **between \$100 and \$150**; varies per program*)



APPLICATION TIMELINE

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!

TIMELINE

August-September

Browse programs, do basic research

Meet with faculty members to discuss possible programs

Start asking for LOR

October

Determine which programs you will apply to

Establish a timeline based on deadlines

Start working on your personal statement

TIMELINE

November

Determine which programs you will apply to

Establish a timeline based on deadlines

Start working on your personal statement

December-January

Mail Applications (even if early)

Follow up with the schools on receiving the package



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MAIN POINT: THERE ARE MANY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

For: Graduate Students at Masters or Doctoral level

Amount: \$5, 000 per session¹

GPA requirement: A- (i.e., 80%) minimum

When to start applying: October

Please refer to: <http://cou.on.ca/key-issues/education/graduate-education/ogs/>

¹applicant may be awarded up to 3 sessions with a total of \$15, 000

TRI COUNCIL AWARDS

One application per year to one granting agency (NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR).

NSERC (Natural Sciences & Engineering) see: http://nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/index_eng.asp. They have awards for undergrad, & post-grad students!

SSHRC (Social Sc & Humanities) see: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

CIHR Health see: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html>

All three offer Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) to hard-working and informed applicants at each level (master's and doctoral)

Eligibility:

GPA of at least 80% (8.0 or A-) in each of last two years of studies

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION MASTER'S STUDENTSHIP AWARD

Value¹: \$ 36,000

launch: "late June of each year"

Eligibility:

Canadian Citizen

Full Time Research in “**heart disease and stroke** across the four health research themes (basic biomedical, clinical, health services/systems, and social, cultural, environmental and population health)”

Minimum grade of 80% or A- in last 2 years of studies

For more specific information, refer to: <http://www.hsf.ca/research/en/award-administration>

¹ “The maximum dollar amount is \$100K/year for a maximum duration of three years.” This amt. covers equipments, student stipend, etc. See http://www.hsf.ca/research/sites/default/files/E-FAQ%202019-2020_FINAL.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Remember OSAP! (If you don't know, see <http://osap.gov.on.ca>)

See: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html> for Health-topic-related Research

See: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx> for Social Sciences & Humanities

See: http://nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/index_eng.asp. They have awards for undergrad, & postgrad students

MAKE A SPREADSHEET/TABLE TO BE INFORMED! *Example:*

	York Biology	York Chemistry	Etc.
Statement of Interest	Yes (500 words)	Yes	
Identify supervisor	before	before	
GPA min.	B+	B+	
References	3	2	
CV	yes	no	
Funding	<i>Pls see website</i>	guaranteed \$20k	
Due date	Feb (<i>early</i>)	Feb (<i>early</i>)	

GUEST SPEAKER

Katerina Disimino, BSc

- Year 1 MSc Student at York University (Kinesiology and Health Science)
- Supervised by Dr. Rebecca Bassett-Gunter
- Research focuses on physical activity promotion for children with disabilities
- Teaching Assistant
- Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s (SSHRC) recipient

GUEST SPEAKER: **Katerina Disimino, BS**

Q & A

How to Get into Grad School Webinar

Thank you