

IDS 4930- Grad School 101



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OVERVIEW

This course is designed for anyone who is thinking about graduate school in the future and would like to enhance their preparation and make a more informed decision. The course provides an opportunity to gain a better understanding of graduate programs, plan ahead, and reflect on whether graduate school is the right path for you. Students will learn about the graduate school application process, different types of graduate programs, the day-to-day life of graduate students, and how to effectively prepare for a future in graduate study today.

OBJECTIVES

- construct a graduate school preparation timeline
- create a budget and table of funding/cost-of-living data for graduate programs
- craft and refine application materials for graduate school
- make an informed decision regarding post-graduation education
- understand the path from graduate school to career

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grading percentages are as follows:

- **Faculty Profiles 5%**
- **Grad Student Budget 5%**
- **Funding Table 5%**
- **Experience Timeline 5%**
- **CV 10%**
- **Grad School Interview 20%**
- **Statement of Purpose 20%**
- **Final Portfolio 30%**

Grading scale:

A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=86.5-89.4; B=82.5-86.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=76.5-79.4; C=72.5-76.4; C- =69.5-72.4; D+=66.5-69.4; D=62.5-66.4; D-=59.5-62.4; E=<59.5

ATTENDANCE

Since this class only meets once per week, it is important to attend every class session. Accumulating more than three unexcused absences may result in automatic failure of the course. Illness, religious observances, athletics travel, and other circumstances which make attending impossible will be excused, so long as documentation is provided.

LATE WORK

Late work will not be accepted except under extenuating circumstances. Students in need of an extension for medical or other reasons should inform the instructor *prior* to the assignment deadline if possible.

EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>. To help improve the course and maximize the benefit for students, additional, informal evaluations will be assigned at the beginning and midpoint of the semester.

DISABILITY NOTICE

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

SCHEDULE

Weeks 1-2 (Jan. 9 & 23): Defining Grad School

1: First day business; Discuss goals, questions, preconceptions

Readings: Field Guide to Grad School Ch.1; "A Sketch of Grad School"

[NO CLASS MLK DAY: JANUARY 16]

2: Grad School Terms and FAQs; Alternatives to traditional graduate programs

Weeks 3-4 (Jan. 30 & Feb. 6): The Choice to Go to Grad School

3: Values: prioritizing programs based on motivating factors

Reading: "20 Honest Reasons Not to Attend Grad School"

4: Myths: what a graduate degree won't do

HW: Faculty profiles due next week

Weeks 5-6 (Feb. 13 & 20): Paying for Grad School

5: Budget: the costs of being a student

Reading: The Graduate School Funding Handbook Ch. 1 & 2

6: Funding: stipends, assistantships, and fellowships

HW: Personal Budget and Cost-of-Living Table due next week

Weeks 7-8 (Feb. 27 & March 6): The Application

7: Materials: crafting a competitive statement of purpose

8: Interview: self-presentation and preparation

HW: CV due next week; scheduling mock interviews

[SPRING BREAK March 13-17]

Weeks -9-10 (March 20 & 27): Preparing for Grad School

9: Experience Timeline: making a plan of action

10: Mock Interview Day

HW: Experience Timeline due next week

Weeks 11-12 (April 3 & 10): The Grad Student Experience

11: Differences: top 10 ways grad is not like undergrad

Readings: Field Guide to Grad School Ch. 11 & 12

12: Guest Panel: talk to UF alumni in Grad School

HW: Statement of Purpose due next week

Weeks 13-14 (Apr. 17 & 24): Life After School

13: Job Market: what to expect for the post-grad job search

14: Leveraging Skills: making the degree count

***Portfolios due last day of classes (Apr. 26)**