Graduate Admissions

Clay Wesley & Ernest Hendley
Graduate College
October 21, 2010
Graduate School

- What
- Why
- When
- Where
- How
  - To Get In
  - To Get Through
  - To Get Out
Graduate School

What

Why

When

Where

How

- To Get In
- To Get Through
- To Get Out
Graduate School

- Master’s Degrees
  - Master of Arts, Master of Science
  - Specialty Degrees: MBA, MEd, MHR, etc.

- Doctoral Degrees
  - PhD, Ed.D, DMA

Critical Thinking and the Creation of New Knowledge
Graduate School

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Money

Education pays

Unemployment rate in 2009

- Doctoral degree: 2.5%
- Professional degree: 2.3%
- Master's degree: 3.9%
- Bachelor's degree: 5.2%
- Associate degree: 6.8%
- Some college, no degree: 8.6%
- High school graduate: 9.7%
- Less than a high school diploma: 14.6%

Average, all workers: 7.9%

Median weekly earnings in 2009

- Doctoral degree: $1,532
- Professional degree: $1,529
- Master's degree: $1,257
- Bachelor's degree: $1,025
- Associate degree: $761
- Some college, no degree: $699
- High school graduate: $626
- Less than a high school diploma: $454

Average, all workers: $774

Money

**WHY GRADUATE SCHOOL?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Median Annual Earnings in 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>$79,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$79,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>$65,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>$53,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>$39,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>$36,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>$32,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>$23,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career Advancement / Change

- Many students attend graduate school to move up in their respective fields
- Often times individuals will go to graduate school to facilitate a career change
Intellectual Growth

- Pursuit of Advanced Knowledge and Capabilities
- Enhance Critical Thinking Skills
Why NOT to go...

- “I can’t decide what career I want to pursue.”
- “I’m tired of school, but I don’t want to get a real job.”
- “I want to get rich quick.”
- “I have nothing else to do!”
Why NOT to go...

- “I can’t do everything: be a spouse, raise a child, work and go to school.”

- “I don’t like to write papers.”
Graduate School

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The New American Graduate Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The new American graduate student</th>
<th>Master's</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrollment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent female</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent minority (U.S. and Perm. Res.)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over 30</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over 40</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status and dependents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent married</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with dependents</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of dependents</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent employed</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. hours worked per week</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. annual income</td>
<td>$35,500</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education-related debt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent with debt</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. education-related debt</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
<td>$16,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: NCES, NPSAS:93*
Now

- Identify what you want
- Build a relationship with the school
- Put your credentials in order
Graduate School

- What
- Why
- When

- Where

- How
  - To Get In
  - To Get Through
  - To Get Out
Selecting a Graduate Program

- Faculty/Advisors
- Current graduate students
- Department conferences
- Web searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate School Programs Search By Subject</th>
<th>Graduate School Programs Search By School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• All Subjects</td>
<td>• All Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agricultural &amp; Food Sciences</td>
<td>• A-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Allied Health</td>
<td>• G-R</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Art and Fine Art</td>
<td>• S-Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Biological Sciences</td>
<td>• McNair Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Biomedical and Health</td>
<td>• Minority Program Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Business</td>
<td>• Undergraduate Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Communication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Computers &amp; Information</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Earth Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Engineering &amp; Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Environmental Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Humanities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• International Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Liberal Arts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Mathematics &amp; Statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Physical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sports &amp; Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Theology &amp; Religion Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Distance Education Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search For Distance Education Programs
Go To The Information Center
What You Need To Consider

- **Considerations**
  - Academic Fit
  - Faculty Research
  - Size & Location
  - Admission Criteria
  - Reputation
  - Financial Support
  - Placement
  - Culture

- **Process**
  - Background Research
  - Contact Faculty
  - Visit Campus!!!
  - Current Students
Funding Grad School

Financial Aid Support Statistics

During academic year 2007-08

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of all master’s-level students and 86% of doctoral students received some type of financial support.

- 44% of master’s-level students and nearly one-third (32%) of doctoral students, received loans.

- One in five master’s level students (21%) and 13% of all doctoral students received financial support from their employers.

- 4% of master’s students and 26% of doctoral students had research assistantships; 5% of master’s students and 24% of doctoral students had teaching assistantships.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2007-08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08)
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What Grad Schools Consider

- **General**
  - Academics
  - Intellect
  - Area of Interest
  - Experience

- **Specific**
  - GPA/Transcript
  - Curriculum Vita
  - Recommendation Letters
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Test Scores
OU Graduate Admissions

- Graduate College
- Department
Graduate College Requirements

- OU Online Admissions Application
  - Standard Application + Fee

- Official Transcripts
Department Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- Interview/References
- Test Scores

Contact the Graduate Liaison for SPECIFIC requirements!
Graduate Education is About Scholarship

Thinking is more important than scoring.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Answer the question – Be clear and concise!
- Your qualifications & accomplishments
- Your match to the department
- Your goals and objectives
- What you will give to the department
Graduate Application Process

1) Office of Admissions
2) Graduate College
3) Academic Unit/Grad. Department
4) Graduate College
5) Office of Admissions
Graduate Admission Types

- Full
- Conditional
- Unclassified
- Visitor
General Admission Requirements

Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
Full Admission

- 3.0 GPA or better
- Recommended for full admission by the academic unit
- May be eligible for financial aid
- Eligible to enroll in graduate level courses
Conditional Admission

Students who meet most of the admission requirements AND show potential for academic success in graduate school

- Low Grades
- Coursework Deficiencies
Conditional Admission

Low Grades

- 2.75–2.99 GPA for students applying to an academic department

- 2.80–2.99 GPA for students applying to unclassified status

- The student must maintain a 3.0 GPA on the first 12 hours of letter-graded coursework
Conditional Admission

Coursework Deficiencies

- Department must specify the exact course (s) that the student must take
- The student must maintain a 3.0 GPA on those courses
Conditional Admission

- Eligible for financial aid

- Must meet the conditions within the semester in which the first 18 hours of coursework occurs or they may be subject to disenrollment
Unclassified Admission

- Take graduate courses with no intent to pursue a graduate degree
- Not yet chosen an academic unit of study

An unclassified student is not a candidate for a degree, nor does this status guarantee admission to a graduate degree program.
Unclassified Students

- Must meet the same admission criteria as fully admitted students
- Can take a total 12 graduate hours
- Must remain in Unclassified status for one semester
- Not eligible for financial aid
- Eligible to enroll in graduate level courses
Visitor Status

A graduate student in good academic standing at another accredited institution may take courses at the University of Oklahoma as a visitor.
Other Admission Paths

- Deferred Application
- Denied Application
Deferred

Academic unit has chosen not to make a recommendation at this time.
The Graduate College will not send referrals to departments when the applicant has:

- A GPA below 3.0 on 12 letter graded hours of graduate coursework.
- Not met the minimum undergraduate GPA requirements specified by the department.
Completed Bachelor’s Degree

Based on undergraduate coursework earned through the semester in which the last 60 hours occurs

Graduate Coursework

1) Must have at least 12 hours of letter-graded graduate course work.

2) Calculate GPA using all graduate coursework.
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Surviving Graduate School

- Be Responsible
- Constructive Scholarly Dialogue
- Support Networks
- Get Sleep
Graduate School

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Graduating

- Stages
  - Student
  - Exam
  - Candidate
  - ABD (all but dissertation)
  - Defense

- Administrative Requirements & Deadlines

- Congratulations!
Detailed Information

Graduate College
Robertson Hall 213
(405) 325-3811
http://gradweb.ou.edu

Prospective Students:
http://gradweb.ou.edu/Prospective/index.asp

Clay Wesley
claywesley@ou.edu