College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)
Center for Collaborative Research & Prototype Development (CCRPD)

Fall 2020 – Workshop Series

Pathway to Graduate School

Monday, November 9th, 2020
Agenda

• Welcome
• Overview of Graduate Education
• ECS Graduate Programs
• CSUF Graduate Program Application Process
• ECS Graduate Alumni Share Their Experience
• Department/Program-wise Breakout Sessions
• Closing Remarks
CCRPD at ECS

• Center for Collaborative Research and Prototype Development (CCRPD)

• **Mission**: To provide a portal for directed engineering research and design projects, in collaboration with industry partners

• CCRPD is dedicated to helping ECS faculty members and students to achieve their collaborative research and educational goals

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What is Graduate School?

• A school that awards advanced academic degrees (master’s and doctoral degrees)
  – Commonly require that students have earned a bachelor’s degree at an accredited institution

• The term ‘graduate school’ is typical in the United States it doesn’t necessarily mean that it is a separate school
Graduate School as an Option

- How do I apply?
- Am I too late?
- Do I have to take the GRE?
- I'm just feeling so STRESSED
Planning for Graduate School

- Selecting a program
- Applying to the program
- Finding funding/ Financial support
- Making visits to the program
- Explore potential graduate faculty advisor
Reasons to go to Graduate School

• Professional Benefits
  – Greater Financial Compensation
    • A master’s degree holder earns ~ $20,000 more annually than a bachelor’s degree holder
  – Career Advancement in a Demanding Job Market
  – Employment Opportunities
  – Networking

• Personal Benefits
  – Become a Lifelong Learner
  – Sense of Accomplishment
  – Lifestyle Changes
  – Opportunity to Change Gears
Graduate Education Pays

Median weekly earnings and unemployment rate by educational attainment, 2018

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data 2019
Grad School vs. Undergrad School

• Key differences between the two programs
  – Extracurricular activities
  – Working
  – Studying

• What degree should you go for?
  – Masters degree vs. PhD
But when should I go?

• Should I take time off?
• What is different if I take time off before I go?
• What should I do in the meantime?
Choosing where to apply

• Selecting a program
  – Searching the web/literature
    • https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/search
    • https://www.princetonreview.com/grad-school-search
  – Talking to professors
  – Via research experience/interests

• CSUF ECS as a potential option
  – http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/future/gradprogram.php
Graduate Programs at ECS

• The College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) offers seven Master of Science (M.S.) Program
  – Master of Science in Civil Engineering
  – Master of Science in Computer Engineering
  – Master of Science in Computer Science
  – Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
  – Master of Science in Environmental Engineering (online)
  – Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
  – Master of Science in Software Engineering (online)

• http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/future/gradprogram.php
Graduate School During the Pandemic

• Fewer lost opportunities
  – According to the US BLS, 21 million people were out of work as of May 2020
  – There’s a lot of competition in the workforce
  – Taking yourself out of the rat race while you get additional credentials could be a smart strategy

• Decreased interest rates on student loans

• A Resume Boost

A graduate degree could be a job magnet as the world recovers from COVID-19