De-mystifying Grad School Admissions

Dr. Katherine Powers, Director
Office of Graduate Studies
Your Questions....

- How to choose a major?
- What is the process to apply?
- Why should I consider grad school?
- How to complete the application?
- Am I grad school ready?
- Recommendation letters?
- Personal statement?
Why Consider Grad School?

- Career development
- Financial stability—short term, long term
- Help your family, your community
- Leadership—ability to give back
- Personal fulfillment
Greater Education Translates into Greater Earnings

Estimated Lifetime Earnings for a Full-Time Worker, by Educational Attainment

- Doctoral degree: $3.4 million
- Professional degree: $4.4 million
- Master's degree: $2.5 million
- Bachelor's degree: $2.1 million
- Associate's degree: $1.6 million
- Some college: $1.5 million
- High school diploma: $1.2 million
- No high school diploma: $1.0 million

Careers and Education

- No high school diploma: $21,000
- High school diploma (or GED): $31,300
- Some college no degree: $32,600
- Associate degree: $39,500
- Bachelor's degree: $58,600
- Master's degree: $70,900
- Doctorate degree: $99,700
- Professional degree: $125,000

From 1996 to 2008:

Increase in number of jobs requiring a master’s degree:

25%

**“California’s Future Workforce,” Public Policy Institute of California, 2008.**
“Need for postbaccalaureate education and training for high-wage and high-growth occupations to meet the economic development challenges faced by Orange County and the state of California.”
Keep U.S. #1

“Great need for a more educated, knowledgeable and highly trained workforce who have postbaccalaureate education, if industry and business are to be successful”

(Council of Graduate Schools, 2007)
Careers Expecting Graduate Education

- School Principal, District Coordinator
- School, Public Librarian
- Social Worker
- Public Health Educators, Directors, Administrators
- Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapist
- Industrial, School Psychologists
- Speech Pathologists
- College or Adult Education teacher, administrator
Careers Expecting Graduate Education

- Non-profit Manager, Director
- Federal/State/City Agency Manager or Director
- Public Works Director, Urban Planner
- Nearly every manager, supervisor, and director role:
  - project, human resources, technical,
Careers Expecting Graduate Education

- Research Lab Coordinator, Technician
- Environmental Consultant
- State Wildlife Biologist, Game Warden
- State Microbiologist or Inspector
- Medical Fields—all but lowest level
- Technical fields—beyond key-in and basic programming to critical decision-making and design.
Bachelors: foundations to discipline

Masters: sources of knowledge ability to judge source
Why Employer prefers Master’s educated employee?

- Critical thinking skills
- Problem solving—application of learning to real-life work situations
- Writing abilities
- Experience at working on larger projects
- Experience at working independently
Graduate Education

- No G.E. courses—all work in the discipline
- Integrated, intense curriculum
- Courses meet once or twice per week
- Seminars—class discussion
- Research, field work, independent study
- Scholarly articles
- Critical, analytical thinking
- Apply discoveries
- Networking—colleagues for life!
Am I “Grad–School Ready”?

What does Faculty look for in a Graduate Student?
- Curiosity
- Dedication to the subject/discipline
- Desire to work hard
- Eager to learn
- (Not: a “know-it-all”)
How do I pick a major?

- Why do you want to go to grad school?
- What is your undergrad major?
- What are you interested in?
- No problem to “switch” majors or “fields”
  - Many students change major when entering graduate school
  - Some graduate degree programs don’t have an undergraduate major

Next steps:
- Read Dept. websites and Univ. Catalog
- Read course descriptions
- Talk to faculty advisors and professionals
How do I apply to Grad School?

- Two Admissions Steps—Simultaneously

- Must be admitted on BOTH levels:
  1. University—“CSU” eligible
  2. Program/Department—meet program standards
1. How to Apply: University

- University: Submit application to University via CSUMentor
  - (www.CSUMentor.edu)

- Submit required University application materials directly to Admissions & Records
  - All transcripts, including Junior/Community Colleges
  - Language scores, if required
1. University

- “CSU eligible”
  - Bachelors in hand, or nearly completed
  - Accredited college or university
  - 2.5 GPA in the bachelors
  - Good academic standing
  - TOEFL of 550 paper or 80 Ibt
2. How to Apply: Program

- Dept./Program has **specific requirements** for materials that they need from the applicants

- How do I find out what these are?
  1. You will receive an email immediately after submitting CSU Mentor application
  2. Check Department website for information
  3. Send email to the Grad Program Advisor
  4. *You might have to reach out and ask!*
Graduate Program Adviser

- Faculty member in the department assigned to guide all graduate students
- Assisted by staff
- Oversees Admissions for the Department/Program
- Department/Program has final “say” in Admissions
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| Spanish, M.A.                 | 278-3534  | Dr. James Hussar                             | H-835A| jhusser@fullerton.edu  
                             |           |                                              |       | http://hses.fullerton.edu/ml/                      |
| Taxation, M.S.                | 278-3622  | Dr. Betty Chavis Contact Diane Mazzez        | SGMH-4210| dmarzez@fullerton.edu  
                             |           |                                              |       | http://business.fullerton.edu/accounting/         |
| Theatre Arts, M.F.A.          | 278-4782  | Prof. David Nevel Contact Debbie Dombrw      | OPAC-130| dnevel@fullerton.edu  
                             |           |                                              |       | http://www.fullerton.edu/arts/theatredance/       |
Possible Program Application Materials

- What might these materials be?
- The Dept./Program decides—perhaps:
  - Program Application?
  - Extra transcripts?
  - Test scores (GRE, GMAT)
  - Letters of recommendation?
  - Essay? Personal Statement? Writing sample?
  - Interview? Audition? Portfolio?
Application DEADLINES

1. University Application:
   - Check www.CSUMentor.edu

2. Program/Dept. Application:
   - Check Department websites for due dates for Program application due dates
All CSUF applicants via CSU Mentor are assigned:

- A Campus Wide Identification number (CWID)
  - Used to identify students for all transactions
- CSUF student email address
  - yourname@csu.fullerton.edu
  - Can personalize
Student Portal: Info on University Application

- Your CWID
- The Portal
  - CSUF’s main communication tool with current and prospective students
  - Financial aid, registration, deadlines
  - Can keep you informed about campus resources/events
- Student Center
- Students are responsible for checking their student portal and for providing requested information by stated deadlines
University Messages (5)  Academic Messages (0)

- Guidance for Surviving an Active Shooter Situation 0 days ago
- Student Recreation Center early closure 4 days ago
- FREE and Reduced Price Software for Students. Also, enter your campus e-mail to win an iPad Mini! 4 days ago
- Intro Astronomy Course Renamed ASTR 101 10 days ago
- CSUF Soccer Club Tryouts 11 days ago

Campus Events

- Form, Figure, Frame: Works on Paper from the CSUF Art Collection (5/16/2013 - 10/3/2013)
- SRC Early Closure (8/16/2013)
- Women’s Soccer vs San Diego State (8/16/2013)
- Fall Semester 2013: Academic Year Begins (8/19/2013)
- Men’s Soccer vs. California (8/19/2013)
- Men’s Soccer vs. UNLV (8/22/2013)
- Fall Semester 2013: First Day of Classes (8/24/2013)
- Men’s Soccer vs. Alumni (8/24/2013)
**Admissions Decision**

**Graduate Department Recommendation**

**MS Biology**

**Master's Objective:**
- ✔ Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- ☐ Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
- ☐ Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- ☐ Student Withdrawal
- ☐ Deny — Does not meet the department standards and is denied admission.
- ☐ Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - ☐ Program Size Limitation
  - ☐ Missed Deadline
  - ☐ Incomplete Department Application

**Credential Objective:**
- ☐ Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- ☐ Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
- ☐ Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- ☐ Student Withdrawal
- ☐ Deny — Does not meet the department standards and is denied admission.
- ☐ Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - ☐ Program Size Limitation
  - ☐ Missed Deadline
  - ☐ Incomplete Department Application

**Certificate Program:**
- ☐ Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- ☐ Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
- ☐ Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- ☐ Student Withdrawal
- ☐ Deny — Does not meet the department standards and is denied admission.
- ☐ Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - ☐ Program Size Limitation
  - ☐ Missed Deadline
  - ☐ Incomplete Department Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework/Test/GPA Deficiencies</th>
<th>Requirements for Meeting Deficiencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department Chair or Graduate Adviser:**

**Phone Ext.**

**Department Name**

**Date:**

Signature: [Signature]

**Notes:**

Copies: Where - Evaluations; Fellow - Student; Prok - Department

1007009
Admissions Decision

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON
Office of Admissions and Records
(657) 278-2370 / Fax (657) 278-7549

DOE, JANE

Applicant Name 80000000

CWID

Fall 2012 Spring

Year Year

GRADUATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

MASTER'S OBJECTIVE: MS Biology

- Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
  Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- Student Withdrawal
- Deny — Does not meet the departmental standards and is denied admission.
- Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - Program Size Limitation
  - Missed Deadline
  - Incomplete Department Application

CREDENTIAL OBJECTIVE:

- Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
  Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- Student Withdrawal
- Deny — Does not meet the departmental standards and is denied admission.
- Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - Program Size Limitation
  - Missed Deadline
  - Incomplete Department Application

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:

- Admit — Meets the departmental standards for admission to the objective declared.
- Conditional Admit — Does not meet the published departmental standards.
  Conditionally admitted pending completion of deficiency requirements noted below.
- Student Withdrawal
- Deny — Does not meet the departmental standards and is denied admission.
- Inadmissible — Select reason below:
  - Program Size Limitation
  - Missed Deadline
  - Incomplete Department Application

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two 400-500 level classes</td>
<td>1. Must complete classes by Fall 2012 semester with a grade of B or better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Must submit final transcript reflecting Undergraduate Degree to department as soon as available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department Chair or Graduate Adviser  Phone Ext.  Department Name  Date

Copies: White — Evaluation; Yellow — Student; Pink — Department

10/07/09
IMPORTANT OFFICES

- Admissions & Records, LH–111
  - www.fullerton.edu/admissions

- Office of Financial Aid, UH–146
  - www.fullerton.edu/financialaid

- Office of Graduate Studies, MH–112
  - www.fullerton.edu/graduate
If you have Questions....

- Questions?
  - Areas of study?
  - # of units?
  - Courses?
  - Research possibilities?
  - Jobs/careers?
  - Due dates for applying?
  - Application materials needed?

- Department/Program Website

- Contact: Graduate Program Adviser!