

## Questions to Ask Graduate or Professional Schools:

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When you have the opportunity to speak with a graduate or professional school before you start the application process, it is a good idea to have questions ready. The more information you can gather, the better prepared you can be. Work with Human Sciences Career Services for additional assistance.

- How long do most students take to earn their degree?
- What can I do to make my application stand out?
- What do you look for in applicants to your program/University?
- How are student applications reviewed? Are certain factors weighed more than others?
- Do you interview candidates and, if so, what are you looking for in a candidate through the interview process?
- What kind of research opportunities are available with your faculty?
- Are students allowed to conduct their own research with provided funding?
- What types of research projects are current students undertaking?
- What are your teaching lab facilities like?
- Do faculty members publish alongside students often?
- What is your placement rate and where are students usually employed?
- Are graduate assistantships common among students within your program?
- What can I do to be the most successful within your program?
- Is there a mentor/advisor system? Who are the advisors – faculty members, dedicated staff members, other students, or both?
- Are lab / medical rotations available?
- What kind of academic, personal, financial, and career counseling is available to students? Are these services also offered to spouses and dependents/children?
- Are there stable levels of federal financial aid and substantial amounts of university/medical school endowment aid available to students?

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**College of Human Sciences Career Services**

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