



## Road Map for Graduate Study

Special Presentation  
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## About the Presenter

Dr. Donald C. Martin



## Dr. Donald C. Martin

- 28 years in the fields of enrollment and student services
- Worked at Wheaton College, Northwestern University, The University of Chicago and Columbia University
- Earned master's and doctoral degrees
- Met with prospective students in all 50 states and 61 foreign countries



## Did you know?

- In 2009 American companies hired 22% fewer college graduates.
- A master's degree is replacing the bachelor's degree as the minimum educational requirement for many employers.
- Master's degree holders earn 24% more than bachelor's degree holders. Doctoral holders earn 70% more.

## Three major myths about graduate school:



1. I cannot afford it.
2. I have to have a stellar undergrad GPA to get in.
3. I have to go to a top ranked institution/program.



## Three Parts of Presentation

1. Doing Good Research
2. The Application Process
3. Being a successful student



## 1. Doing Good Research

- a. Seven Personal Questions
- b. 12 month Check List

## Seven Personal Questions

- Why do you want to do this?
- What type of learning/student experience are you looking for?
- Have you considered the benefits of going both full or part time?



## 12 Month Check List



- Start off with a thorough web-based search
- Develop a list with *at least* 5 to 10 options
- Do a website review for each option
- Also request written information
- **Tip: Remember: Perception is where you end up, *not* where you start out.**



## 2. The Application Process

- a. Some do's and don'ts
- b. Ways to get recognized as an applicant

## Some do's and don'ts

- Do be assertive, but don't be arrogant
- Do be confident but don't act conceited
- Do be persistent but don't be a pest
- Do evaluate customer service but don't forget that you too are being evaluated



## Ways to get recognized as an applicant

- Adding a persuasive cover letter
- Stay calm and keep your cool no matter what
- Smile
- Ask questions the demonstrate you really did your research
- Be yourself





## \*\*Responding to the Decision

1. Wait Listed
2. Denied
3. Admitted

## Wait Listed



- It is not personal!
- There is still a *strong* chance you will be admitted
- If feedback is offered, get it!
- Request an on-campus interview
- Mount a letter of recommendation campaign



## Denied

- IT IS NOT PERSONAL!!!!!!
- Accept the decision
- Write a thank you note to the person who signed the letter
- Request feedback
- If you believe something was overlooked, ask about it
- Consider re-applying



## Admitted



- Celebrate!!!!
- Thank those who helped you
- Follow instructions related to orientation
- Start planning for your finances
- Start your research process all over again
- Visit the campus
- Network with other admitted students



## 3. Succeeding as a Student

- a. This is YOUR time: make it count
- b. Handling difficult situations
- c. The importance of networking

## In Conclusion

It's not primarily about credentials -

It's really about

Character

Credibility

Communication



Road Map for Graduate Study: A Guide  
for Prospective Graduate Students



- First comprehensive book on the Graduate School Experience
- Written by an “insider”
- Succinct - 100 pages long
- Covers all we touched on and much more
- Available at [www.gradschoolroadmap.com](http://www.gradschoolroadmap.com)

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Q and A

What are your  
Questions?



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