



Graduate School: Winning Strategies for Getting in

Dave G. Mumby, Ph.D.

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This book provides college students with all the information and advice they need to apply successfully to graduate school. In chapters 1 to 4 several misconceptions about graduate school are revealed and dispelled, including the most common myth that one must have excellent grades to get in, and that excellent grades are all that one needs. Certain factors that can play an even bigger role than GPA in determining the fate of an application are discussed, and the reader discovers how the process of selecting applicants actually works in most graduate programs; it is not the way that most people think! Students with outstanding grades will discover why they need more than just their grades to get into grad school and succeed once there. These other requirements are explained, along with numerous tips and suggestions for making sure that one has it all when it comes time to apply. Chapters 5, 6 and 7 go step-by-step through all stages of the application process, focusing on ways to maximize the quality of each of the five main components of a graduate school application: 1) application forms, 2) transcripts, 3) letters of recommendation, 4) standardized tests, and 5) the personal statement. Pitfalls of the application process are revealed, and the reader is shown how to avoid many of the costly mistakes that most graduate-school applicants unwittingly make. The later chapters, beginning with chapter 8, discuss how to go beyond the basic application requirements and take extra steps to stand apart from the crowd. Included are such topics as making pre-application contact with a prospective supervisor, writing proper cover letters, and preparing for interviews. Many of the ideas outlined in these chapters do not occur to most students, but those who understand and incorporate them into a strategy for applying to graduate school are almost always successful. The final chapter examines ways that students may find the money they need for graduate school. Intended for students in most disciplines within the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities, the book also contains valuable insight and advice for students of Engineering, or Fine Arts, and for those seeking a degree in Business, Law, or Medicine. The author is a university professor whose advice has helped countless of students get into graduate school. Research for the book included surveys and interviews with Admissions Committees and Faculty members of graduate programs across North America.

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