## **APPLYING TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

#### PRESENTERS: WILL LEE-LADOUCEUR, GRADUATE DIVISION

**Q&A MODERATOR:** JESSICA VENTURA, GRADUATE DIVISION



# FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL



## Research



#### Size of Program



#### Faculty



#### Location



**Financial Support** 



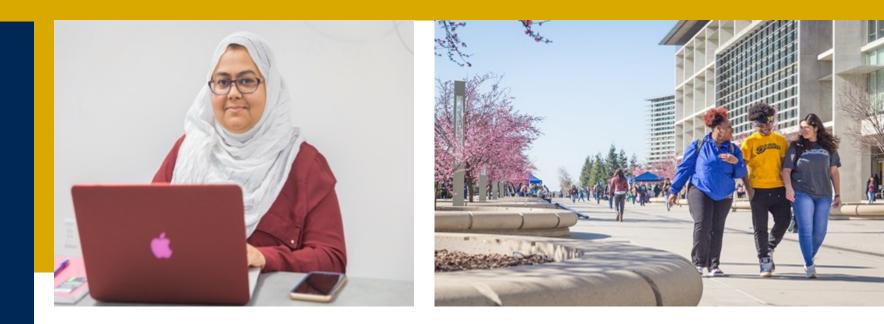


#### APPLICATION OVERVIEW

- ➢ GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays

# Letters ofRecommendation

> Research Experience



## **Graduate School Application**

Think of your application as a table with legs made out of GPA, GRE, Statement Essays, Letters of Recommendation, and Research Experience



## **Strong Academic Performance**

- > GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays
- Letters ofRecommendation
- Research Experience

- 3.0 or above GPA
- Transcripts (send any related to a degree)
- How are transcripts scrutinized?
  - Cumulative
  - Last 60/90 units quarter vs. semester
  - Major
- Address any holes in your Personal Statement



## **Graduate Record Examinations**

- ➢ GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays
- Letters ofRecommendation
- Research Experience

- Three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, Analytical Writing
- Score valid for 5 years
- Different programs may emphasize one section over another
  - Subject exams
- Some graduate programs require it the exam may be phased out in the future
- GPA and GRE scores can be used to award fellowships
- Take advantage of campus resources!



Applied Mathematics	Not Required
Bioengineering	Optional
Chemistry & Chemical Biology	Optional
Cognitive and Information Sciences	Not Required
Economics	Required
Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences	Required for M.S. / Optional for Ph.D.
Environmental Systems	Optional
Interdisciplinary Humanities	Not Required
Materials & Biomaterials Science and Engineering	Optional
Management of Complex Systems	Not required
Masters of Management Program/MIST (M.M.)	Not Required
Mechanical Engineering	Optional
Physics	Not Required
Political Sciences	Required
Psychological Sciences	Optional
Public Health	Required
Quantitative and Systems Biology	Optional
Sociology	Optional



## **State Your Case**

- ➢ GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays
- Letters ofRecommendation
- Research Experience

- In general, a personal statement is about 1-2 single spaced pages.
- Critical component of your application. Why?
- Read the prompts/directions carefully!
- Should be adapted to the graduate program.
- Audience: Admissions committees consisting of professors in your field.
- May be used to see if you qualify for additional funding.



## **Quality and Quantity**

- > GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays
- Letters ofRecommendation
- Research Experience

- Usually 3 letters of recommendation are required.
- Letters should be from:
  - Faculty with whom you have done research.
  - Faculty with whom you took upper-division classes.
  - Internship supervisors or relevant work experience supervisors.
- Aim for at least 2/3 letters to be from faculty.
- How much lead time should you give?



# Why is it Important?

- ➢ GPA
- ➤ GRE
- Statement Essays
- Letters ofRecommendation
- Research Experience

- Get an inside look at what an academic or research career can offer.
- Learn about cutting-edge discoveries being made in your field.
- Acquire lab and research skills, hone critical thinking and writing skills.
- Networking
- Establish relationships with faculty who can write strong letters of recommendation.



# Graduate School Myths





# I can't afford graduate school



# It's too late for me to consider graduate school



# I need to have a Masters degree to get into a Ph.D. program





# I'm only a second year. I don't need to think about graduate school.



## **START PLANNING NOW**

- Test dates and preparation
- Potential recommenders
- Graduate programs and requirements
- School contacts and campus
  resources
- Research opportunities
- Write essays ahead of time and have them reviewed

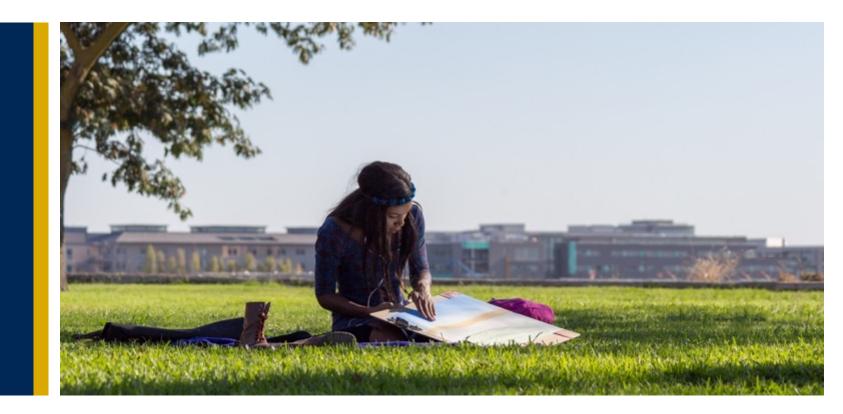




Year 2	Year 3	Year 4-5
Ask peers for recommendations of faculty and upper division courses	Attend office hours of faculty with whom you want to build rapport	Notify faculty that you want to have write your letter of recommendation
Look into summer research opportunities	Start undergraduate research and look into summer research opportunities	Write and rewrite statement essays and have them reviewed by peers, staff, faculty
Attend Graduate Fairs in the Fall and the CA Diversity Forum (Fall or Spring)	Attend Graduate Fairs in the Fall and the CA Diversity Forum (Fall or Spring)	Prepare for, schedule and take the GRE if needed
Attend office hours of faculty with whom you want to build rapport	Create a list of schools that offers graduate programs you are interested in along with requirements	Apply to graduate programs, keep a list of school contacts



# What Makes UC Merced Unique?







Smaller Programs = More time with faculty working on research and mentorship

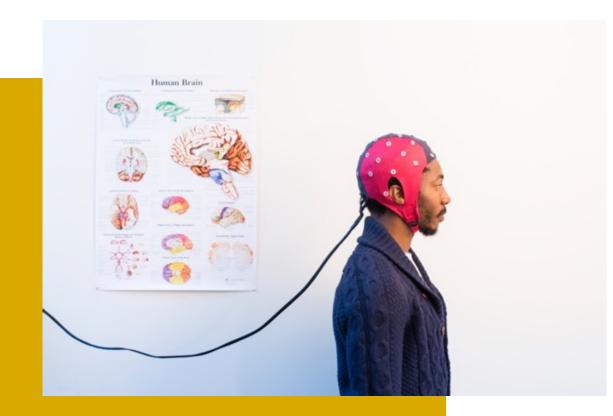




## **Growing Campus**

- New facilities
- New resources
- New research space





## **Many Research Strengths**

- Climate change and ecology
- Solar and renewable energy
- Air and Water quality
- Artificial intelligence
- Cognitive science
- Stem-cell
- Diabetes and cancer
- Big-data analysis



# SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



- Bioengineering MS, PhD
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science - MS, PhD
- Environmental Systems MS, PhD
- Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology – MM
- Management of Complex Systems PhD
- Materials and Biomaterials Science Engineering - MS, PhD
- Mechanical Engineering MS, PhD



# SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES



- ✤ Applied Mathematics MS, PhD
- Chemistry & Chemical Biology MS, PhD
- Physics MS, PhD
- Quantitative & Systems Biology MS, PhD



## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES & ARTS



- Cognitive & Information Sciences MS, PhD
- Economics PhD
- Interdisciplinary Humanities MA, PhD
- Political Science MA\*, PhD
- Psychological Sciences MA\*, PhD
- Public Health MSPH\*, PhD
- Sociology MA\*, PhD

\*denotes Masters offered only along the way to PhD





## **LEARN MORE**

Digital brochures for programs are available at: graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/academic-studies



## <mark>FUN</mark>DING

#### 97% of PhD students receive funding

- Fellowships
- Teaching Assistantships
- Graduate Student Researcher Appointments
- Grant Opportunities
- Apply for Pre-doc Fellowships

(graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/funding/external)





## **CAMPUS** RESOURCES

#### Graduate Resource Center (GRC)

- graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/GRC
- Peer Mentors, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Wellness, Social Activities
- Statistics/Writing Tutors available in the GRC during the semester
- Graduate Mentorship: All 1<sup>st</sup> year Ph.D. are paired if grad program participates

## **Student Organizations**

- Grad student specific: graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/graduate rcos
- Open to all students: <u>ucmerced.edu/clubs-and-organizations</u>



# **Applying to UC Merced**

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- > Online Application
- > Transcripts
- ➢ GRE (varies by program)
- Statement Essays
- 3 Letters of Recommendation

- The earlier you apply, the better!
  - Application Deadlines
  - General Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Priority Deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Application fee waivers are available!
  - For domestic applications only
  - Graduate enrichment program participants such as: LSAMP, MARC, McNair Scholars Program, etc.



# CONTACTS



Will Lee-Ladouceur wcll@ucmerced.edu



Jessica Ventura jventura9@ucmerced.edu



Graduate Division grad@ucmerced.edu grad.ucmerced.edu



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