

## **Be an educated consumer...**

### **...questions to ask graduate programs as a prospective student.**

#### **Program Details:**

- Is your program accredited? (depends on what you are studying)
- What is the most typical class size for your graduating class? Are classes restricted to graduates or are undergraduates common in your graduate classes?
- What is the % of the class that comes to you with prior work/life experience beyond their undergraduate degree?
- Are students expected to work on professor's research or to pursue their own?
- What is your attrition rate?
- What does one need to be considered a strong candidate for admission *and* success in your program?
- May I contact a currently enrolled student?

#### **Educational Philosophy:**

- What theoretical framework does your program follow?
- Is your approach more theory based or applied?
- How much interaction with faculty can I expect?
- Would I be able to download a syllabus to see how a typical class is constructed?

#### **Graduation Requirements:**

- How long of a program is this? How many credits?
- Are there opportunities to complete this program part-time? What % of your student body completes their degree part-time?
- Does the program require a practicum or experiential learning? How many hours? Are students expected to find their own placement site?
- Does the program require a thesis or comprehensive exam?

#### **Student Life:**

- Is there a sense of a cohort amongst your program?
- What is the demographic make-up of your program's body?
- What is the cost of living in this area?
- What are your housing options?
- What is a day in the life of your student like? When are classes scheduled and how do students typically manage their time?

#### **Career Development:**

- What is the breakdown of where students go on from your program?
- Where do students take these jobs?
- What opportunities are there provided to network?

#### **Financial Aid:**

- How do your students typically fund their education?
- Will I automatically be considered for financial aid? Are there any important deadlines that I should be aware of in your financial aid process?
- What types of aid are available? Are there any particular grants that students in this program seek?
- What is the stipend range?
- What is the process for applying for assistantships and fellowships?
- Do students have to compete for funding? What are the criteria for how it is given?

#### **Specific Questions for a PhD Candidate:**

- Do you offer full funding via assistantships to all admitted students?
- What is the average time frame for completing the PhD program?
- What percentage of the students in the program completes the PhD?
- Explain the dissertation process & how professors support students on this major project?
- What percentage of students finds opportunities in academia?
- What are some examples of non traditional careers where your students find opportunities?