

# THINKING ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL?

## INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AT THE CAREER CENTER

- **Individual Appointments**
  - Address your questions and concerns during a 30-minute session with one of our career coaches. Visit our website to schedule an appointment!
- **Career Drop-In Advising**
  - Spend 15 minutes with a Career Drop-In Advisor for quick questions Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 4 PM
- **Mock Interviews**
  - Practice your skills for job, graduate school, or professional school interviews in a one-on-one mock interview. Mock interviews must be scheduled 48 hours in advance. Visit our website to schedule one!

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT THE CAREER CENTER

- **Graduate School Prep Month**
  - October is graduate school prep month! Information on workshop dates, times, and registration can be found on our website.
- **Graduate and Professional School Fair**
  - Held each fall, the fair offers an opportunity for all students, regardless of major or year in school, to meet with admissions representatives from various graduate and professional school programs.
- **The Career Center Website**
  - Check out the “Considering Graduate School” tab under “Majors and Careers” on our website for additional information regarding how to become a competitive applicant, the application process, funding graduate school, and more!

## OTHER CAMPUS RESOURCES

- **Writers Workshop**
  - Learn how to self-revise, edit, and proofread your own work:  
[cws.illinois.edu/workshop](http://cws.illinois.edu/workshop)
- **Testing Center**
  - Offers individual proctoring services for students to take licensing and college entrance exams including GMAT, GRE, MCAT, DAT, TOEFL: [odos.illinois.edu/testing-center/](http://odos.illinois.edu/testing-center/)
- **Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA)**
  - Offers assistance with preparation for graduation school selection, application and entrance exams: [omsa.illinois.edu](http://omsa.illinois.edu)
- **Office of Undergraduate Research**
  - Learn how to start or get involved with undergraduate research opportunities:  
[undergradresearch.illinois.edu](http://undergradresearch.illinois.edu)

## EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- **Researching Graduate Programs**
  - Peterson's Guide to Colleges and Universities: *petersons.com*
  - *Gradschools.com*
- **Document Organizing Resources**
  - Interfolio, a service that stores documents for graduate school, academic job searches and employment: *interfolio.com*
- **Funding Resources**
  - Illinois Career Information System: *ilcis.intocareers.org*
    - Username: illinois
    - Password: careers
    - Go to Education tab Financial Aid Sort

# BECOMING A COMPETITIVE CANDIDATE

## PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

- **Major**
  - Undergraduate majors and graduate programs are not perfectly correlated. If you intend to continue pursuing your field of study in graduate school, try to identify a couple sub-areas that you may focus on. If you are changing fields of study, prepare by taking relevant coursework and gaining extracurricular experiences.
- **Solid Academic Record**
  - GPA admission requirements differ among graduate programs. Selective programs will look to GPA, course difficulty, and academic trends over time to determine acceptance into their programs.
- **Student Involvement**
  - Extracurricular activities such as sports, professional organizations, and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) help develop transferable skills that graduate programs value. Examples of such skills include: initiative, teamwork, communication, leadership, responsibility, and perseverance.
- **Research**
  - Research may help you develop skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, quantitative analysis, and how to use the scientific method, which are especially important if you are considering applying to doctoral programs.
- **Work/Internships/Volunteering**
  - Part/full-time jobs or volunteer work can help develop important skills while also allowing you to gain perspective on what employment in your field of interest might entail. These opportunities can help clarify your professional goals.