

## Other Important Considerations

### Resumes

It's a good idea to plan to include your resume (sometimes referred to as a curriculum vitae or CV in academic circles) with your application, whether a graduate program specifically requests it or not. It is a professional way of presenting your credentials and experiences. A resume may also be helpful or required when applying for teaching or research assistantships. The resume article in *The Career Center's Job Search Guide*, and on our website, can be helpful in getting you started.

For graduate/professional school, the emphasis will be on experiences relevant to the program to which you are applying - This is your chance to expand on research and other activities related to graduate school.

- What experiences have you had that have led you in the direction you are heading?
- What significant course projects or papers have you done that are relevant to mention?
- Are there skills (such as SPSS or laboratory techniques, for example) that are worth mentioning?
- How can you make a strong academic case for your potential success in graduate school?
- Have you taken a graduate course somewhere already?
- Have you done independent research?
- Have you ever presented at a conference?
- If you are applying for a teaching assistantship, do you have teaching or tutoring experiences you can highlight?

The Career Center critiques resumes (and cover letters) - contact us on ways you can get feedback on your draft.

### Cover Letters

Your application may require, or you may choose to include, a cover letter. For more information on effective cover letters, obtain a copy of the *Career Center's Job Search Guide*, or look on our website.

### Interviews

Not all graduate programs include an interview. If your applications will include a personal interview, we strongly recommend you grab a copy of our *Job Search Guide*, review the article on "Acing the Interview", and set up a mock interview with us (we can even videotape it if you like). When you make the appointment, don't forget to tell us which graduate school and program it's for.

Also, refer to our *Job Search Guide* for articles on Relocation, Salary Negotiation, and Dressing for Career Success.

## Developing a Plan B

Especially in difficult job markets, the graduate school application process becomes even more competitive. And while you may think that you are an excellent candidate, the numbers may not be in your favor. On occasion we have seen candidates rejected who we know might have gotten in if it was a different year and different economy. So once you have a sense of what you will need to do for grad school applications, spend some time on Plan B. What will you do if you do not get into grad school? Go into the Peace Corps? Get a job? Travel for a year?



You'll need to develop a timeline for your Plan B and become aware of deadlines. Take advantage of the Career Center's job search resources to help you with your plan. Make an appointment with one of our Career Counselors to discuss options and tips for when you try again.