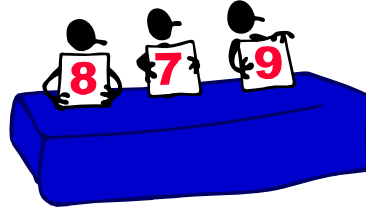


# Tips for Evaluating Graduate Schools



## **Compare student-faculty ratios**

Look in Peterson's Annual Guide to Graduate Studies (current year available in Trexler Library Reference, previous year in the Career Center Resource Library) to determine the number of faculty and students in a given department. The fewer students per faculty the better: smaller classes = more individual attention.

## **Look at various measures reported in Educational Rankings Annual**

Look in the reference book Educational Rankings Annual (Trexler Library) to compare top programs in your subject area using a variety of measures, like acceptance rates, average GRE scores, and National Research Council evaluations.

## **Check citing of faculty publications**

Faculty reputation can be assessed in part by examining the number of times a faculty member has been cited by other scholars. Trexler Library provides access to Art and Humanities Citation Index at its website under "Finding Articles," and to Social Science Citation Index and Science Citation Index upon request at the reference desk.

## **Talk to students who are currently enrolled**

Contact the departments in your subject area and see if they can provide you with e-mail addresses of currently enrolled students to ask them what their experience has been. Or visit the school yourself and ask graduate students how they like the program.

## **Consider financial aid availability**

Which schools offer more financial aid? Some schools provide nearly every graduate student with some form of aid through teaching assistantships or other awards.

## **Ask faculty at Muhlenberg**

Don't forget to discuss your plans with faculty in your field on campus. They may be able to advise you on programs that may fit what you are looking for, and often know faculty at universities that you may be considering.