MSGC
2022
Summer Internship
Webinar 4
Graduate School
Preparation

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Agenda

- Making Yourself a Good Candidate
- Application Packet
- What Are They Looking For?
- Searching For Schools
- Timeline
- Interview
- Choosing Where to Accept
- But Wait, There's MORE
- Looking Back and Looking Forward
- Questions

Making Yourself a Good Candidate

- What makes a good candidate?
  - *Do you show promise of being a good investment? I.e., does your application indicate that you are a person who has what it takes to make it through to your masters or PhD? What is the relative importance of GPA, GRE scores, research experience, extracurricular activities?*

- Application packet:
  - Online application with basic information: on time & complete
  - Transcripts
  - GPA
  - Resume
  - Graduate Record Examination Score (GREs)
  - Letters of Recommendations
  - Cover letter
  - Statement of Purpose or Research Statement

Application Packet

- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** Score has three test sections – Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning (General).

    1. What is required for your schools of interest? Do they require GREs?
    2. Know what your weaknesses are & address them months before taking the exam.
    3. Timing: Take the General GRE 2-3 months, and the Subject GRE 1-2 months before your application(s) are due.
    4. Do practice exams, each test cost money. Practice the writing!

Application Packet

- **Letters of Recommendations**

  1. Who should you ask?
     a) Professors, employers, RESEACH MENTORS
  2. When should you ask?
     a) 2-3 months before the application is due
  3. What do you need to supply your recommender with?
     a) Resume
  4. When do the letters need to be sent and who should send them?
     a) Online portals are typical with a link sent to the recommender
  5. What is the review committee looking for?
     a) Details about you as a reliable student.

Application Packet

* **Cover letter**

  1. Typically addressed to the chairperson of the department or the admissions committee.
  2. Opportunity to point out your major strengths.
  3. First, say something of substance: introduce yourself and where you found their program (website, friend, family, etc.)
  4. Second, highlight several strengths that you want the committee to be aware of
  5. Third, thank them for their time and consideration.

Application Packet

- **Statement of Purpose – could be a personal statement and a professional statement**

  1. A brief description of who you are as a person.
  2. A brief description of who you are as a scholar, with a link between you as a scholar and your application to their program.
  3. A paragraph or two about how you can fit in, learn from, and contribute to their program.
  4. A view of the career you see yourself after your graduate degree. Show them your vision.

Application Packet

Element	Online Portal or Submit?
Online application with basic information	Online Portal
Transcripts	Request or MHecker_Transcript.pdf (unofficial)
GPA	Online Portal
Resume	MHecker_Resume.pdf
Graduate Record Examination Score (GREs)	Online Portal or MHecker_GRE.pdf
Letters of Recommendations	Online Portal
Cover letter	MHecker_CoverLetter.pdf
Statement of Purpose or Research Statement	MHecker_Statement.pdf

What Are They Looking For?

- Maturity

- Capable student

- A good match with their faculty's interest and research.

1. Do your homework on the institution
2. Does your interest fit with the faculty? (Tailor your cover letter and statement.)
3. Study their catalog of course work, what excites you?
4. Make each statement specific to the institution and program.
5. Follow up to ensure your materials have been received!
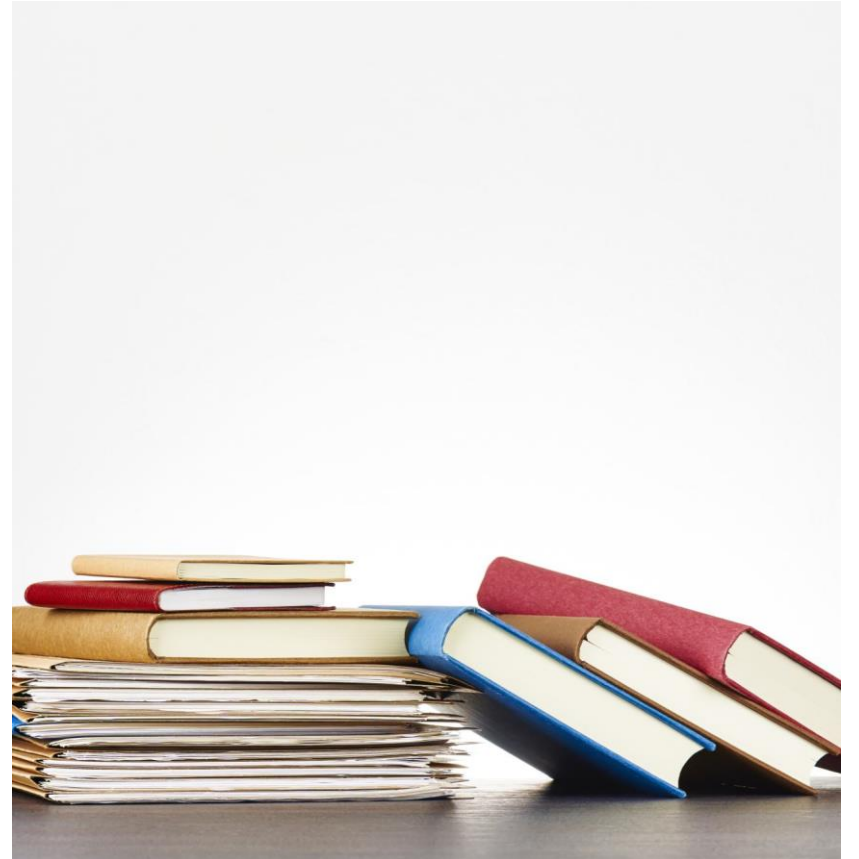
Searching for Schools

General

- Don't put all your eggs in one basket – apply to a range of schools.

- Do they offer funding opportunities? Teaching/Research Assistantships (required?)

- Lab/office space?

- Pre-requisite courses?

- What is the cost of living?

- What is student life like?

- What is the climate like?

- Transportation: local & back home?

Who is active in the areas of research that interest you?

What is their specialty in this area, and what is its future?

What are their qualifications in this area?

What are the core classes that the department requires of all students? Who teaches them, what is their reputation with the present students?

What are the PhD qualifying and/or comprehensive exam structures?

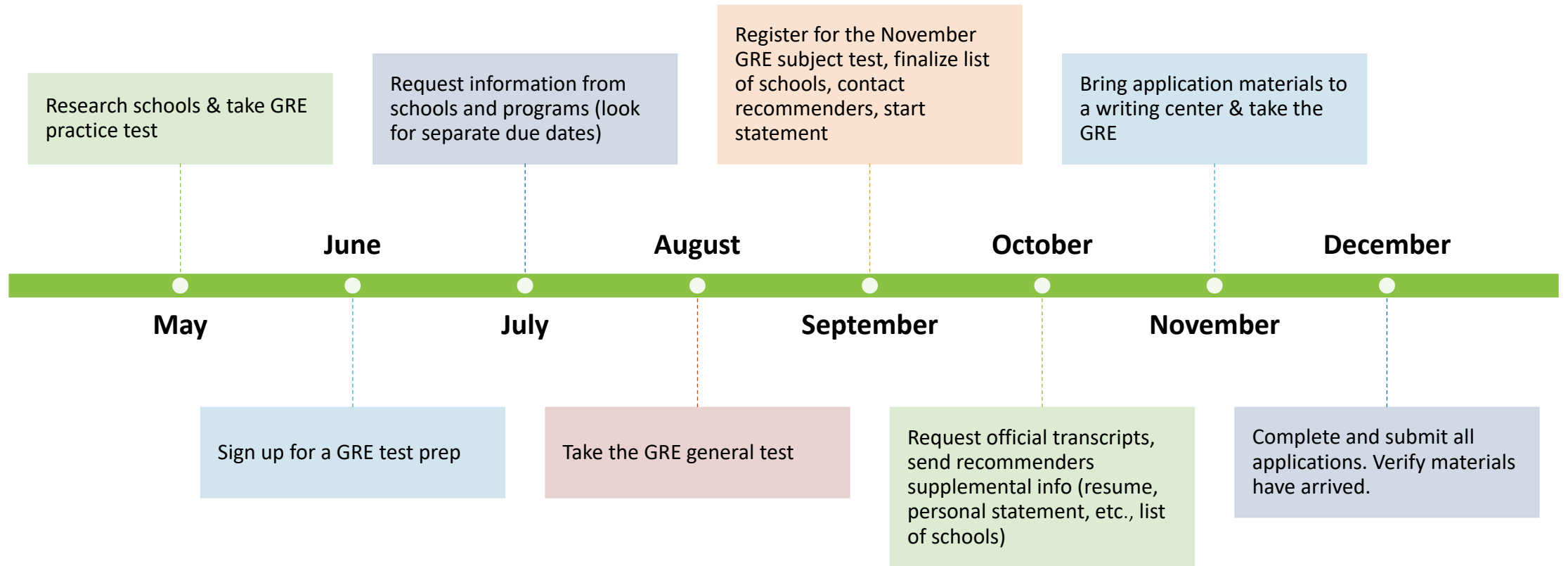What electives are offered in the area of research of interest to you?

What do the present students think of the atmosphere in the department?

Is the grad student support sufficient (academic year only, year-round)?

Searching for Schools

Program Specific

Timeline

Research schools & take GRE practice test

Request information from schools and programs (look for separate due dates)

Register for the November GRE subject test, finalize list of schools, contact recommenders, start statement

Bring application materials to a writing center & take the GRE

June

August

October

December

May

July

September

November

Sign up for a GRE test prep

Take the GRE general test

Request official transcripts, send recommenders supplemental info (resume, personal statement, etc., list of schools)

Complete and submit all applications. Verify materials have arrived.

Timeline

Research schools & take GRE practice test

Request information from schools and programs (look for separate due dates)

Register for the November GRE subject test, finalize list of schools, contact recommenders, start statement

Bring application materials to a writing center & take the GRE

6 months out

4 months out

2 months out

Due

7+ months out

5 months out

3 months out

1 month out

Sign up for a GRE test prep

Take the GRE general test

Request official transcripts, send recommenders supplemental info (resume, personal statement, etc., list of schools)

Complete and submit all applications. Verify materials have arrived.

Interview

GRADUATE SCHOOLS INVEST A LOT TIME, ENERGY, AND MONEY IN A STUDENT.

THEY ARE ENSURING QUALITY GRADUATE STUDENTS = REPRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM'S REPUTATION.

THEY MAY WANT TO ASSESS STUDENTS PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE FOR SUITABILITY AND FUNDING ALLOCATION.

REVIEW THE INTERVIEWING MATERIALS FROM PREVIOUS WEBINAR.

Choosing Where to Accept

You might get accepted to more than one graduate school. How do you make that choice?

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Chris P. Bacon**					
2	**Post Grad Plans**					
3	**Graduate School**					
4		School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5
5	Preference					
6	School					
7	Location					
8	App. Deadlines					
9	GPA Req					
10	GRE/ GMAT/ LSAT/ MCAT					
11	Pre-Req Courses					
12	# of Rec Letters					
13	Personal Statem.					
14	Statem. of Purpose					
15	Research Statem.					
16	CV					
17	Writing Sample					
18	Tuition Cost					
19	Tuition Waiver (TA/RA)					
20	Scholarships					
21	Grants					
22	Housing Costs					
23	Health Insurance					

Wait, But There's MORE

More?!

- Coursework
- Choosing a mentor
- Mentor – Student Relationship
- Cultural norms
- Authorship
- Comprehensive exams
- Thesis/Dissertation types
- Implicit rules

That's too much to put into this presentation.

Looking Back and Forward

Back

We will have NO more summer webinars left!

- ✓ Networking & Final Report
- ✓ STEM Resumes
- ✓ Interviewing
- ✓ Graduate School Planning

Forward

Final Report & Presentation

- ❑ Final Report: Due 2 weeks after your internship ends.

- ❑ Final Presentation: Due by September 30th

- ❑ STEM Student Professional Development Skill Symposium
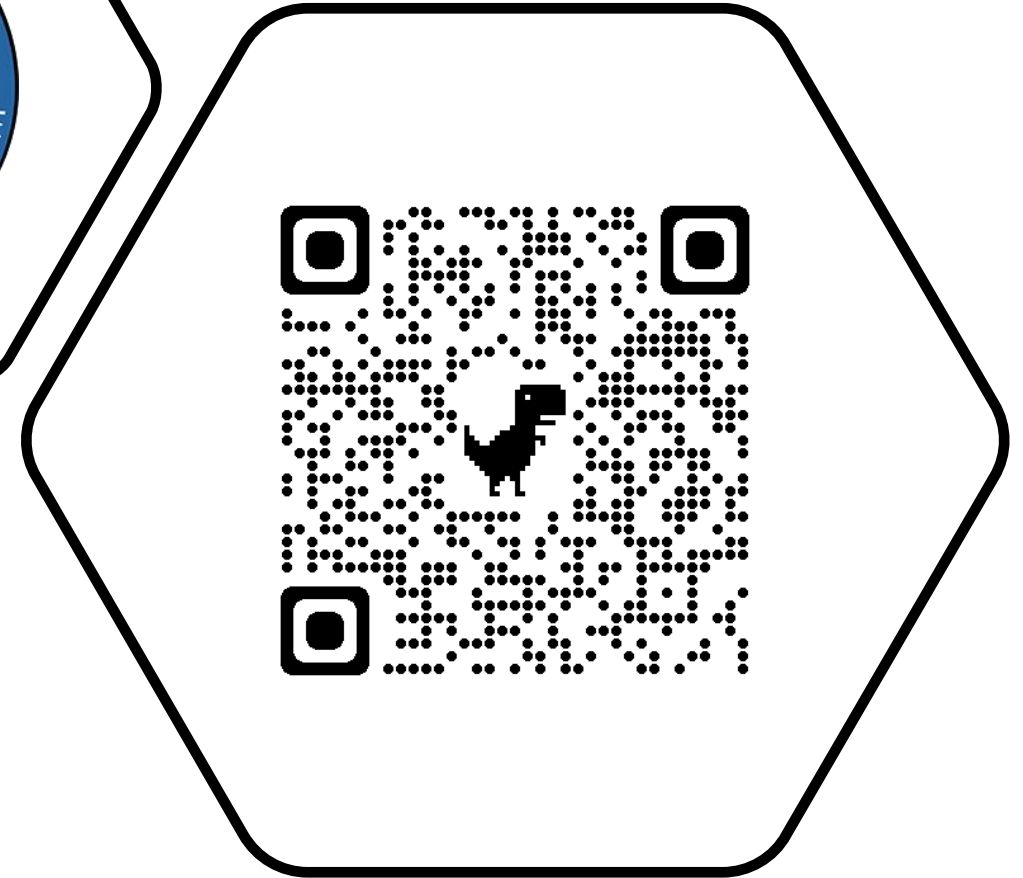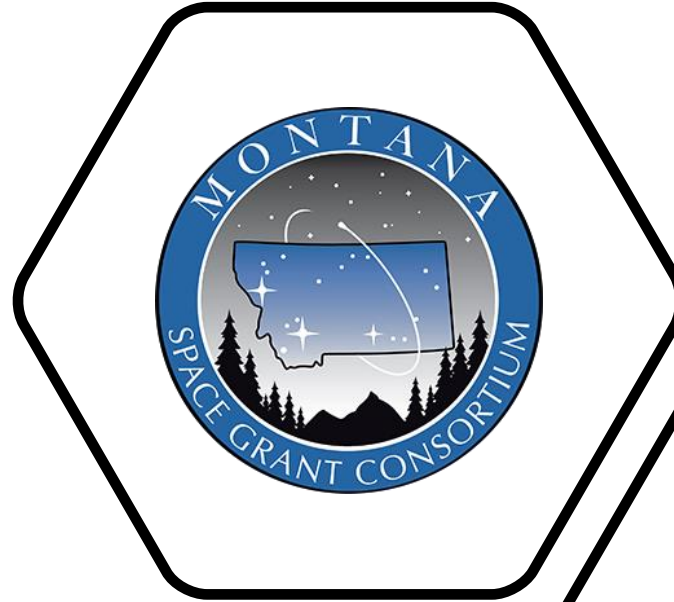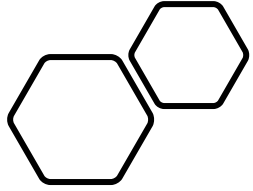
Thank You

- Remember to record this hour towards your research time
- Reminder: Please fill out the anonymous, end of the internship survey:
  - https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cGhKIHpNOFHnY1w

- We will be sending out an email with more information

- Questions for us?