

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL:**

There are many factors involved in the selection of a graduate institution. The weight you give each of these factors depends on your own situation and needs. Generally, you should consider the following factors when selecting a graduate program:

1. **Program:** What is the content and the focus of the program? Do you hope to study in a department or program which has a particular emphasis or philosophy? What percentage of students actually completes their programs? How long does this degree take?
2. **Faculty with whom you wish to study:** Are you interested in working with a particular person who is widely published or an authority in the field?
3. **Financial aid:** What is the availability of loans, grants, scholarships, and fellowships, work-study and part-time jobs? What are the opportunities for assistantships?
4. **Acceptance:** What are the chances you will be admitted to and succeed at a particular institution?
5. **Reputation:** Is the department, in particular, and/or the institution considered to be of a caliber that will allow you to fulfill your objectives? Is the faculty of high quality? (See *Gourman Report* and consult with the faculty here.)
6. **Size:** What is the faculty student ratio? Are the number and scope of graduate seminars adequate? (See the catalog of that school.)
7. **Special facilities:** Does the school meet your special needs, such as photography labs, practice rooms for musicians, oceanographic equipment, wildlife game pens, fish hatchery, or other unique resources?
8. **Libraries/Research Centers:** Does the university library contain necessary books, articles and periodicals for your research?
9. **Cost:** Are you able to afford the costs? Is out-of-state tuition a factor? Some schools don't charge out-of-state tuition to graduate students.
10. **Geographic location:** Are you prepared to move to another state? What effect would a move have on you and your family or friends? How important is geographic environment to you? What is more important to you, avoiding an undesirable location, or being able to attend an outstanding school?
11. **Placement record:** What is the record of the school for graduates finding employment in their area of study? Are there services to help graduates find a job? What do **you** want to be three to five years after you graduate?