

What Grad Programs Consider, and How to Prepare:

Research experience:

Gain experience developing questions, collecting/analyzing data, presenting findings.

Recommendation letters:

Compile detailed info packets to make it easy for your letter writers.

Personal statement:

Start early, revise often, and sell yourself as a potential researcher.

GRE scores:

Aim for 70th percentile or higher for PhD programs, 50th percentile or higher for Master's programs.

GPA:

Check program websites for average GPAs of recent cohorts.

Mentors:

Cultivate relationships with mentors who can advise you on the application process.

Teaching assistantships:

Use opportunities to teach, tutor, and mentor for pay or class credit.

Extracurricular activities:

Gain leadership experience, especially with professional organizations.

How you will be evaluated on key criteria

- **Personal statement** (TIP: It's not all about you): Highlight the ways in which your ideas and experiences will help professors develop their own research and reach their own goals.
- **Letters of recommendation:** Many professors consider this the most important criteria for evaluating an application. Select letter writers who know your work, and provide them with written materials outlining your contributions to their lab or your work in classes they taught.