

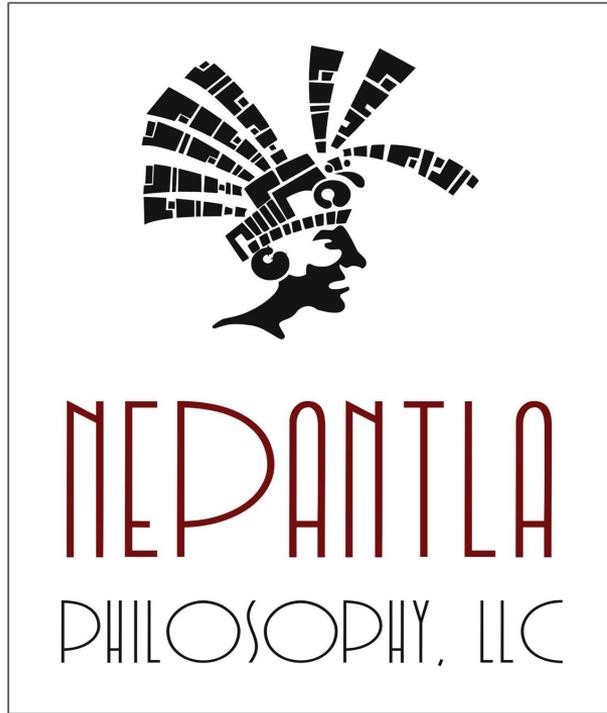
# Graduate School 101:

**Application Process  
& Special Considerations in Science, Tech,  
Engineering, & Marketing Programs**

Undocu - Spartan Student Resources

Juan Ruiz, MA

# Who am I? Why am I here?



- Juan Ruiz Cortes, MA (Philosophy, 2018)
- Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, BA
- Founded Nepantla Philosophy, LLC
  - Created a limited liability company with a mission to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education through programming, professional training, and consulting.
- *Undocumented non-DACA entrepreneur*

# Take a deep breath!

1. I will provide you with a lot of information!
2. I welcome interaction and collaboration!



# Presentation Content



1

STEM  
application  
details



2

General &  
Undocu-related  
Considerations



3

Deadlines, Letters of  
Rec., Testing, Fee  
waivers, Writing  
Sample



4

Resources

# How to Start Your Thinking About Graduate School

- Research interests
- Specialized Field, like Medical or Law School
- Seek TA position, or something of the sort
- Application process & cost
- Letters of Recommendation
- Graduate tests
- Post Bacc Programs

## SOPHOMORE / JUNIOR YEAR

- Get involved with faculty mentored research
- Research graduate programs
- Attend graduate school fairs
- Research extramural fellowships



## SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Do a summer research program here at UCI or at another institution
- Work on your statement of purpose and personal history statement
- Take the GRE exam



## SENIOR YEAR

- Request three faculty letters of recommendation by early Fall
- Finalize your Statement of Purpose and Personal History Statement
- Submit your extramural funding applications during the fall
- Submit your graduate application to UC Irvine!

## TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR WRITING STATEMENT

- Ask one of your letter writers if they can review and provide suggestions for strengthening your Statement of Purpose.
- Have someone edit your statement(s) for grammar and spelling errors before submitting your application.
- Include in your statement(s) why you chose to apply for graduate school and why you chose the graduate program for which you are applying.
- Describe not only your success, but also any barriers that you have had to overcome.

# Marketing Programs

## CSU Long Beach (Example)

- Masters of Science in Marketing Analytics
- Non-refundable \$70 application fee
- Official transcripts
- 2.75 GPA or greater
- Resumé
- [GMAT/GRE Test Requirements Waived for Spring and Fall 2022](#)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Video Statement of Purpose
- Personal Statement

## UC Berkeley (Example)

- Masters of Business Administration
- Copy of official transcripts
- GMAT or GRE exam required
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) for applicants who received undergraduate degrees in non-English speaking countries
- Interview by invitation only
- Two letters of recommendation from former employers
- Two Essays; SOP only for concurrent programs

# Info on Berkeley Marketing MBA continued...

- **Essay 1:** What makes you feel alive when you are doing it, and why? (300 words)
  - *A successful essay will share a specific and personal experience that helps the reader get to know you better, giving insight into your character, values, or how you would uniquely contribute to the Berkeley-Haas community.*
- **Essay 2:** The definition of successful leadership has evolved over the last decade and will continue to change. What do you need to develop to become a successful leader?

- Applying to Scholarships is optional, yet part of the application, and may require other supplemental materials or essays

Round	Submit application by:	Take GMAT/ GRE/English Tests by:	Decisions posted by:
1	September 23, 2021	September 23, 2021	December 16, 2021
2	January 6, 2022	January 6, 2022	March 24, 2022
3	April 7, 2022	April 7, 2022	May 12, 2022

# Medical School application

- Do not have to be STEM Major  
MCD/Biology/Chemistry
- Can be any major (i.e., Sociology, Physics or History etc.)
- Just need to meet minimum requirements
- ~3.5 GPA (3.2-3.8)
- Volunteering, internship, clinical experience
- Research experience preferred
- Letters of recommendation (3-6 at UCI)
- *Rigorous application timeline—may discuss further during office hours*

## Requirements

- One year of Biology (w/labs)
- One year of Physics (w/labs)
- One year of English
- One year of Math
- Two years of chemistry (w/labs)
- <https://apps.aamc.org/msar-ui/>
- Preferred/Recommended:
  - Computer courses, Anatomy, Cell Biology, Immunology, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish
- **Take the MCAT exam**

# MCAT - Medical College Admission Testing

- Administered by Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- Standardized test with sections on
  - Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
  - Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
  - Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior
  - Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills
- In-person test only
- \$305 cost

Exam Overview		
Section	# of Questions	Time Allotted
Examinee Agreement		8 minutes
Tutorial (optional)		10 minutes
Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems	59	95 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills	53	90 minutes
Mid-Exam Break (optional)		30 minutes
Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems	59	95 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior	59	95 minutes
Void Question		5 minutes
Satisfaction Survey (optional)		5 minutes
Total Content Time		6 hours   15 minutes
<b>Total "Seated" Time*</b>		<b>Approx. 7 hours   33 minutes</b>
*Total seated time does not include check-in time on arrival at the test center.		

# MCAT Prep Resources



- **FREE!** Khan Academy MCAT Course
- Sample content from all four sections
- 1,100 videos and 3,000 review questions to help you study
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat>



- Full-length practice tests
- MCAT quizzes to assess readiness
- MCAT Flashcards App
- [https://www.princetonreview.com/medical/free-mcat-practice-test?gclid=Cj0KCQiAj9iBBhCJARIsAE9qRtBzwTSLDZ3s5Xuuaa9HsE8ZuYADQn4pomC9Lo\\_pgm1QN6MjSV6fNfEaApWuEALw\\_wcB&ExDT=2#!practice](https://www.princetonreview.com/medical/free-mcat-practice-test?gclid=Cj0KCQiAj9iBBhCJARIsAE9qRtBzwTSLDZ3s5Xuuaa9HsE8ZuYADQn4pomC9Lo_pgm1QN6MjSV6fNfEaApWuEALw_wcB&ExDT=2#!practice)

- Founded in 2012 by three undocumented medical school graduate students
- Offers networking, advocacy, forums, resources, and community-building opportunities
- Graduate/Professional Programs
  - **Scholarship list:**  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q-ka0BAzfenJ92Feikx\\_AjF3BpqFNN-eFvlymdv2q8/edit#gid=839553668](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q-ka0BAzfenJ92Feikx_AjF3BpqFNN-eFvlymdv2q8/edit#gid=839553668)
  - **Internship list:**  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Aqrs\\_l6Mq\\_3FHHvXszW11hlahiO4x2h84k1ZGk7Lh-g/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Aqrs_l6Mq_3FHHvXszW11hlahiO4x2h84k1ZGk7Lh-g/edit#gid=0)

# PHD - Pre-Health Dreamers



# A Pre-Med Student's Steps to Medical School



This infographic represents a basic timeline and steps toward medical school. Your advisor and AAMC resources can help guide you on your individual timeline and steps.

# Don't give up!



- Graduate School is expensive, but not impossible to access and succeed
- For undocumented students without work authorization, it is particularly more expensive
  - Then, there is the Residency requirement after completing Med-school where employment authorization is required...
- There are Med schools deliberately supporting undocumented folks
  - Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago: DACA recipients welcome and receive full tuition support
  - <https://ssom.luc.edu/daca/>



# California Healthline Daily Edition

*Summaries of health policy coverage from major news organizations*

TUESDAY, SEP 30 2014

## New Law Allows Undocumented Immigrants To Practice Health Care

A new California law ([SB 1159](#)) allows undocumented immigrants to practice the occupation they have been trained for, including those trained as dentists, doctors and nurses, KPCC's "[Multi-American](#)" reports (Huang, "[Multi-American](#)," KPCC, 9/29).

# Engineering Research Opportunity



- UC Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
  - Opportunity for research and intense graduate preparation program
  - Facilitate application, admission, and enrollment in grad school
  - Open to all academic fields at UCI
  - June 19-August 12, 2022
  - **AB-540 Eligible**
  - Juniors, seniors or MA students pursuing a Ph.D.
  - Application opens Dec. 2021
  - Email: [diversity@rgs.uci.edu](mailto:diversity@rgs.uci.edu)
    - Maria Menendez
- \$4,000 stipend included
  - Successfully applying to graduate school
  - Successfully applying for fellowships
  - GRE preparation course (optional)
  - Academic writing
  - Preparing academic presentations
  - Academic career planning

# STEM Resumé

- Different than the Humanities/Social Sciences Resumé
- Showcases
  - key words; identifiable by AI (artificial intelligence)
  - Lab work
  - Courses
  - Internship experience
  - Special projects participation
  - Leadership experience
- Not a “cut and paste” template; every field is particularly different
- Sample: [Junior Mechanical Engineering Major Seeking Product Design Internship \(pdf\)](#)

**Alex MechE**  
Berkeley, CA | youremail@berkeley.edu | (555) 555-5555 | LinkedIn, Portfolio, etc

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**EDUCATION**  
**University of California, Berkeley** May 2021  
**Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering** GPA:   /4.0

**Relevant Coursework:** Feedback Control Systems, Aerodynamics, Biomechanics, Heat Transfer, Electronics for IOT, 3D Modeling, Statics & Strength of Material, Manufacturing & Tolerancing

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**SKILLS**  
**Software:** SolidWorks, Creo, MATLAB, Python, CATIA, LabVIEW, AutoCAD, MS Office, MS Excel  
**Fabrication:** 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, Lathe, Mill  
**Certification:** Certified SolidWorks Associate

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**INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE** May 2019 - August 2019  
**Product Design Intern**  
*ABC Company*

- Designed waste/vent & storm drain riser diagrams for 35-story mixed-use high-rise using Bluebeam Revu & AutoCAD
- Participated in coordination meetings/conference calls with clients, architects, subcontractors, and consultants
- Assisted Project Managers with calculations and bid documentation
- Reviewed and ensured materials were meeting specifications on drawings
- Analyzed costs and lead times to ensure they were within project budget and schedule

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**RELEVANT PROJECTS**  
**UC Berkeley Solar Vehicle Team** August 2018 - Present  
*Student Mechanical Engineer*

- Optimized suspension, chassis, and powertrain by performing nite element analysis with ANSYS, and improved vehicle stability and maximum speed by 8% and 12% respectively
- Constructed the solar powered electric vehicle by using machine tools such as water jet, CNC Lathe, and milling machines, and won 1st place at Formula Sun Grand Prix 2017

**UC Berkeley Hyperloop Team** January 2018 - Present  
*Lead Mechanical Design Engineer*

- Designed a high speed rail transport by minimizing air resistance and analyzing air flow with SW flow simulation tool, and selected to compete in the SpaceX Hyperloop competition
- Integrated air resistance and wheel friction into braking system, and achieved reducing braking distance by 20%

**ME 103 (Experimentation and Measurements):** NACA 0015 Airfoil Performance Characterization Fall 2018  
*Class Project:* Modeled, 3D printed, and validated performance attributes of NACA 0015 in a wind tunnel

- Manufactured and assembled aircraft wings by laser cutting ribs and joining them to spar structures
- Tracked and managed a ~\$15,000 budget by effectively overseeing resource procurement
- Established and maintained industry relationships to secure 4 corporate partnerships
- Modeled aircraft components and created wing assemblies in SolidWorks

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**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE** October 2017 - December 2018  
**Society of Women Engineers, Secretary**

- Led initiative to engage & empower more women in entrepreneurship through directly engaging w/female led startups
- Planned Startup Expo event, including workshops and panels with various local Bay area startups, along with a career fair involving 25 startup companies from around the Bay Area



Break. Transition.

## Basic Considerations

- Why? What? Where?
- What to expect?
- Degree?
- Benefits
- Costs

## Reasons to Pursue

- More knowledge about a subject/major
- Research interests
- Your proposed career may require it
- Become a better candidate in the job market

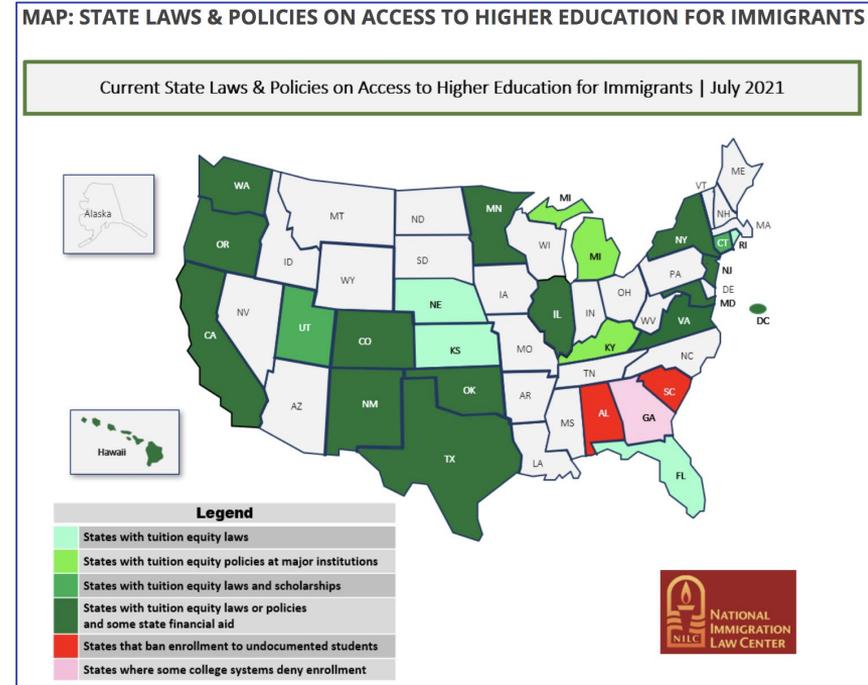
# Different Degrees

- Master's: MA, MS, MBA, MPA, MSW, MFT, etc.
- Doctorate: Ph.D.
- Professional: JD, MD, DDS, OD



# Undocumented-related Considerations

- State laws affect graduate school admission
  - [National Immigration Law Center](#)
    - [Map: State Laws & Policies on Access to Higher Education for Immigrants](#)
    - [Table: Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants](#)
  - uLEAD: University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity
    - [uLEADNet.org](#)
      - Categorized laws of 50 states into Restrictive, Unstipulated, and Inclusive



# US Customs & Border Protection (USCBP) checkpoints

- Interior Checkpoints and Higher Ed Institutions along the border
  - USCBP, checkpoints range from 25-100 miles from border
  - There are an estimated 180 checkpoints
  - Living in an area that requires you to pass through a checkpoint poses a higher deportation risk



Figure 4: Map of 100 Mile Border Zone, Courtesy of the ACLU (2017)<sup>19</sup>

# Testing Requirements: GRE, GMAT, MCAT, etc.

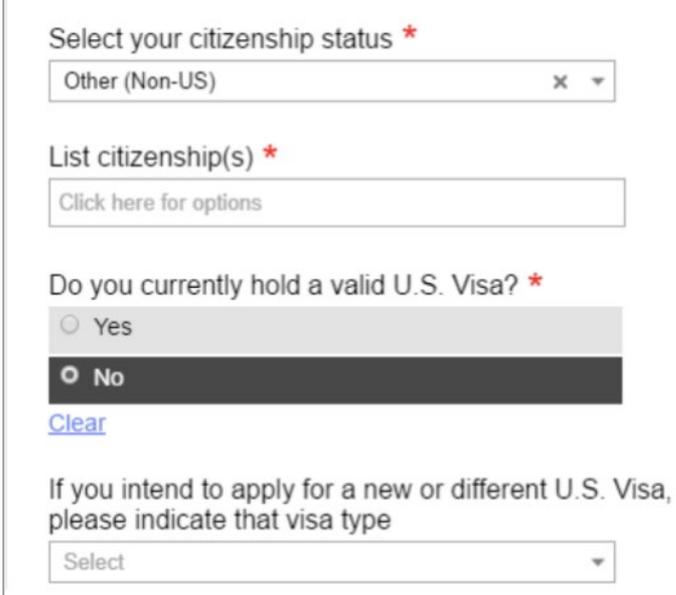
- Government issued identification for registering and taking the test
  - US driver's license or passport
  - Original document
  - Valid
  - Bear your full name
  - Includes recent photograph
  - Includes your signature
- ETS Office of Testing Integrity (OTI)
  - Accommodation, waiver or workaround if you do not meet identification requirements
  - Email: [TSReturns@ets.org](mailto:TSReturns@ets.org)

You will be admitted to the MCAT® exam on testing day only if your identity document meets the necessary requirements. To ensure that it does, please complete the checklist below.

Identification Requirements	Yes	No
The names on your ID match the first and last names on your MCAT exam registration EXACTLY. (Middle names or initials are not required on the MCAT registration, even if they appear on your ID.) → If they don't match exactly, you must update your name through the <a href="#">MCAT Registration System</a> system by the <a href="#">BRONZE ZONE deadline</a> associated with your test date. → If your ID has your initials in place of your first and/or last name, you must contact AAMC Services (202-828-0600) for instructions before the <a href="#">SILVER ZONE deadline</a> associated with your test date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID was issued by a government agency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID's expiration date is printed on the ID and is not extended by a sticker or similar mechanism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID will not expire before your exam date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID is not a temporary ID. → Paper IDs or ID application receipts of any quality are not valid forms of identification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID contains a photo that can be used to positively identify you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID includes your signature, which you will be asked to duplicate on test day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID is whole with no evidence of tampering (clipped corners, holes, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ID is in English.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you answered "no" to any of the requirements, please obtain an ID that fulfills all the requirements or adjust your registration details.		
If you answered "yes" to <b>ALL</b> these requirements, CONGRATULATIONS! You are ready for exam day!		
If you have any questions about test day identification requirements, please refer to <a href="#">MCAT® Essentials</a> or contact AAMC Services at 202-828-0600 or <a href="mailto:mcats@aamc.org">mcats@aamc.org</a> .		

# Disclosing Status on a Graduate Application

- No federal law requires proof of citizenship when applying
- Personal decision to disclose status
  - Typically unavoidable in an application
  - Used for Financial Aid and to gauge diversity of the matriculating student population
  - Provide students with resources
- Information safeguarded by FERPA
  - Except for court orders
  - Legitimate educational interests
  - Directory information



Select your citizenship status \*

Other (Non-US) x ▾

List citizenship(s) \*

[Click here for options](#)

Do you currently hold a valid U.S. Visa? \*

Yes

No

[Clear](#)

If you intend to apply for a new or different U.S. Visa, please indicate that visa type

Select ▾

# Application Components

- Admissions testing
- Unofficial Transcripts / GPA
- Personal Statement
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- CV / Resumé



# Timeline

- Summer:
  - Narrow down research interests
  - Search for programs
  - Prepare for testing
- Fall:
  - Work on application
  - Letters of rec.
  - Personal statement / SOP
  - Writing sample
  - Funding application
- Winter:
  - Maintain good grades
- Spring:
  - Admission response
  - Interview at campuses



# Detailed Timeline

Example of Grad School Application Timeline										
	Sophomore			Junior			Summer	Senior		
Quarter	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring		Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>Academics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Choose major</li> <li>-Academic enrichment programs</li> <li>-Honors opportunities.</li> <li>-Volunteer or intern</li> <li>-Undergraduate Research Opportunities</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Be proactive and engage in major.</li> <li>-Apply to summer research/internship opportunities.</li> <li>-Attend California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Attend scholarly lectures and discussion</li> <li>- Instructor Assistant (e.g., Psyc 191)</li> <li>- Attend/Revisit California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education</li> </ul>		
<b>Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Take note of topics you find interesting based on reading from courses.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Gain research experience (e.g., labs, Pathways to Research Program)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Summer Research Program or Internship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Senior thesis, internship, field study.</li> </ul>		
<b>Graduate School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Explore career interests.</li> <li>-MS/MA vs. Ph.D.</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Build relationships with faculty and graduate mentors for future letters of recommendations.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-GRE prep</li> <li>-Search for Grad school programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Apply to Grad school OR</li> <li>-Plan for the year or two before Grad School</li> <li> </li> </ul>		

# Grad School Wishlist

University Name	School Name	Program Name	Degree	Faculty Name	Faculty Contact	App. Requirements	Deadline
NYU	Steinhardt School of Culture, Ed, & Human Dev.	Psych & Social Intervention	Ph.D.	C. Suarez-Orozco Niobe Way (Psy. Dev)	<a href="mailto:cso2@nyu.edu">cso2@nyu.edu</a>	Fee Waiver	Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>
UC Santa Cruz	Psychology	Developmental Psychology	Ph.D.	Margarita Azmitia Catherine Cooper	<a href="mailto:azmitia@ucsc.edu">azmitia@ucsc.edu</a>	Personal History Statement, GRE: Fee Waiver	Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>
Stanford	School of education	PSE: child & adolescent dev.	PhD	-Amado Padilla -Teresa LaFromboise	<a href="mailto:apadilla@suse.stanford.edu">apadilla@suse.stanford.edu</a>	GRE: 4704 Fee Waiver	Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>
Brown Uni.	Education Department	Urban Education Policy	MA	1. Cynthia Garcia 2. Deborah Rivas-Drake 3. Rosa Cho	1. <a href="mailto:Cynthia_garcia_coll@brown.edu">Cynthia_garcia_coll@brown.edu</a> 2. <a href="mailto:Deborah_rivas_drake@brown.edu">Deborah_rivas_drake@brown.edu</a> 3. <a href="mailto:rosa_minhyo_cho@brown.edu">rosa_minhyo_cho@brown.edu</a>	GRE: 3090 Fee Waiver	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Harvard	Graduate School of Education	Human Development & Psychology	MA	Vivian Louie Hiro Yoshikaw	<a href="mailto:vivian_louie@gse.harvard.edu">vivian_louie@gse.harvard.edu</a>	GRE: 3428	Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>

# STEM Personal Statement & Statement of Purpose

- Word limit depending on the program
  - 250-1000 words
- Describe a time when you dealt with someone difficult
- How did you handle the situation?
- What would you do different if you could do it over?
- Video Statement of Purpose
  - Describe your career goals in the next 3-5 years,
  - Your long-term dream job
  - You can use a platform such as YouTube to create the video.  
Include your link in the application form

# Personal Statement /

# Statement of Purpose

- For financial aid and cohort considerations
- Personal trajectory / journey to career path
- Represents your skills and character
- Overcoming adversity and maintaining academic excellence
  - How?

- For research interests/cohort considerations
- What do you want to do in grad school?
- How will you apply your skills to achieve goal?
- Highlight aspects of school / department that guide your interest
  - List faculty you wish to work with

# Testing & Exams



Some schools waived these test requirements due to COVID-19

- GMAT (business)
  - Marketing Analytics
- MCAT (medical school)
- PCAT (pharmacology)
- OAT (optometry)
- Request fee waivers from Graduate Division, Fin. Aid Office

1. Pick Up a book from the library, peer, online, etc., and read a few pages a day
2. Don't try to wing-it!
3. Create a study plan
4. Become acquainted with the examination style
5. **GMAT now available online**
  - a. <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat>

# The little box at the end of the application...

- **Question:** *“Is there anything not included in the application that you would like to share with the graduate committee?”*

Comment

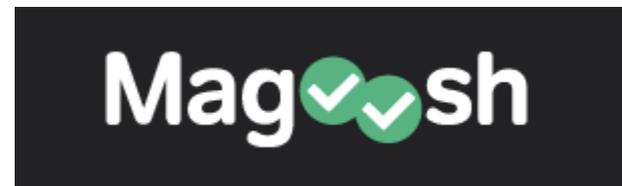
Post Comment

- Make use of this to genuinely describe:
  - *Your fear of standardized testing*
  - *The underlying reason why there is a “W” or failing grade on your transcript*
  - *A family hardship that affected a gap in your education*
  - **And how these criteria are not indicative of your ability to engage in research material**



# Grad Test prep resource!

- [Magoosh](https://magoosh.com/) online prep-course for GMAT, MCAT, GRE
- Some Universities offer this resource **free** to students--look into this as a possibility at your campus!



<https://magoosh.com/>

# Writing Sample

- Depending on your discipline, the sample may be different
  - STEM: Poster abstract; study you conducted in a course; special lab report; essay for a course or publication
- Work on the sample ahead of time
  - Ideally, use a sample from a faculty advisor that is recommending you and has reviewed your work

- Share your sample with different readers
  - Faculty
  - Peer advisor
  - Mentor
- Save each copy separately and then decide what changes to make

# CV / Résumé

- Curriculum Vitae
  - Concise summary of educational background and achievements
    - Personal contact information
    - Educational degrees
    - Awards / publications
    - Teaching and research interests and experiences
    - Skills
    - Professional memberships
  - Highlight experiences in relation to SOP



# Letters of Recommendation

- Request **strong well-written** letters of rec.
  - Pillar of the application, ask ahead of time
  - Provides information that is not found elsewhere in the application
    - Don't be repetitive
      - Some aspects have to be mentioned by the recommender
  - Waive the right to read the letter
    - Shows confidence
      - Professors may be more comfortable to recommend you
  - From: Professor's, Employer, Internship/volunteer supervisor



# Letters of Rec

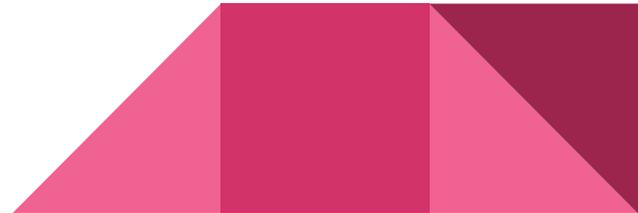
- Advise Professor ahead of time or at the beginning of a course
- Attend office hours and hold conversations related to your research interest
- Never accept a Letter from a Professor who asks you to write it
  - Provide the recommender with:
    - SOP
    - Résumé / CV
    - Writing sample
    - Transcripts
    - \*(See [sample](#) in materials attached to this prez)

# Faculty advisor

- Professor/Mentor that will revise all material to be submitted
  - Meet regularly and have materials ready to be revised
  - Meet professor during office hours or request alternative time
  - Be responsible for setting expectations and deadlines
- 

# Deadlines

- Submit application materials ahead of time
- Letters may be provided by professors after application has closed
  - It is your responsibility to ensure the recommender has provided your letter
  - Email recommender with gratitude
  - Then email as a follow up to ensure letter submission



# Finding the right Program

- Look into the Faculty and their Research interests
- 2-3 faculty members you may work with
- Ask if they will be on
  - Sabbatical, retiring, conducting research elsewhere
- Does the Program offer a MA if you don't finish the PhD?
- Reach-out to other graduate students at the dept. and read their work



# Contacting the Department

- Inquire what funding options are available particular to your circumstances
  - TA ships, fellowships, GSR?
  - *Will I have a difficult time registering at your school due to my undocumented status?*
  - *Is there a category I fall under with your registration office?*
- Ask for application fee waivers



# Financial Aid Options

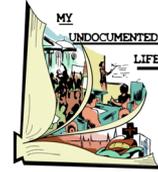
- [MALDEF Graduate Scholarship & Fellowship List](#)
- [Internal Fellowship: UCLA AB540 Grad Students](#)
- [External Fellowship: Paul D. Soros Fellowship for New Americans](#)

The logo for the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans is presented on a light gray rectangular background. The text "PAUL & DAISY" is at the top in a small, black, serif font. Below it, the word "SOROS" is written in a very large, black, serif font. Underneath "SOROS", the words "FELLOWSHIPS FOR" and "NEW AMERICANS" are stacked in a smaller, black, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the text "NEW AMERICANS".

PAUL & DAISY  
SOROS  
FELLOWSHIPS FOR  
NEW AMERICANS

# Undocumented Student Resources

- <http://mydocumentedlife.org/>



- <http://www.phdreamers.org/>



- [dream.csac.ca.gov](http://dream.csac.ca.gov)



- [immigrantsrising.org](http://immigrantsrising.org)



LIST OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

# Santa Clara Law Digital Commons

- Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students
- Focus on law, testing requirements, and state-to-state nuances, amongst other items
- <https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Student-1.pdf>



2018

## Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students

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# Lastly

- No one single route is the only correct one
- Make a name for yourself get the Dept. to know you

