



5 - Community Setting

Take a look at the on-campus and off-campus communities. Is the on-campus culture faculty access, social life, etc.—what you’re looking for? Off campus, does the area have the amenities you want and need? Is it in a city or a small college town?

6 - Faculty

Your relationship with faculty will be a huge factor in your educational experience. Learn the names, departmental positions and academic credentials of the professors you’d be working with.

7 - Resources

Research can require significant out-of-pocket costs. Find out about resources available at the institution that can reduce these costs. What kinds of research facilities do they offer? Because research often involves travel, is there a travel stipend?

8 - Cost/Funding

Tuition and fees will be an obvious consideration, but you should also take into account living expenses, which can vary widely by region. What sort of stipends and funding programs are available? What are the work requirements?

9 - Career Outcomes

What are the career outcomes for program alumni and how does the program support students and alumni in professional development?

10 - Best Fit

As you go through the process of evaluating graduate programs against the above factors and criteria, also take into account your instinct. Which “feel” best? If at all possible, you’ll want to visit each institution, speak to faculty and current students, and contact program alumni—this will provide the best opportunity to ensure that you apply to the programs that fit you and your goals best.