

Graduate School Seminar



WELCOME to the Graduate School Seminar hosted by the Office of Career Services

PRESENTERS

Gwenda Hawk: GRAD Instructor and Pre-college Community Director, Kaplan

<http://www.kaptest.com/>

Topics:

- Timeline for applying for graduate school
- Application process and Entrance exams
- General tips regarding the personal statement and letters of recommendation

Intro - Kaplan teaches test-taking strategies and sends the most students to graduate schools out of all Prep Centers

Dos and Don'ts of grad school admissions

- Big difference if you go or don't go to grad school
- Tip 1 – Know the Factors
- Quantitative Measures
 - Test scores and GPA
 - Commit to your GPA and get it higher!
 - Grades remain important and must show a trend that your grades get better.
 - Can commit and change your test scores by how you go about studying
- Qualitative Measures
 - Experience
 - Communications
- Tip 2 – Be clear about your motivations
 - What can you say about yourself and your candidacy for the program within 20 sec
 - 3 questions
 - Why grad school?
 - Why our grad school?
 - Why now?
 - What can you add to the class?
- Tip 3 – Manage the process
 - Research schools to get a good fit
 - Manage app process and make sure that you would be a good fit at the school so you know how to answer the question, “Why our grad school”
 - Treat it as a long-term progress
 - Generally takes 40 hrs for each app. Plan for it.
 - Around 100 hrs for test prep
- Tip 4 and 5 – Make your experience work for you / Develop your story

- For your essay, tell a story, provide specific examples
- Don't diminish your current situation – demonstrate why you are worthy and that you are going to be good for the school/program
- Tip 6 – Help your recommenders help you
 - Seek recommendations from people you trust and you know rather than those with impressive credentials
 - Provide them information about past experience – include your resume
 - Don't assume they will complete the recommendations on time – follow up, provide them with stamped, addressed envelopes (this is your responsibility to see that they meet the deadline)
- Tip 7 – Your academic potential is measurable
 - Test scores are important
 - GRE is in 4 parts
 - A score of 1000-1100 is what UMKC prefers, 1000-1200 for the U of MO-Columbia
 - Each school is different, you need to research those in which you are interest
- TIP 8 – You can raise your test score
 - You can retake the tests, some schools will take your highest score, some will average them
 - Kaplan guarantees you can raise your score
- Tip 9 – Test preparation is part of your grad school investment
 - Test prep is part of the investment – your score is the basis for scholarships and grants
 - Look at cost of degree which could be 20-400 thousand dollars – the cost of the test prep a small piece of the total
 - Expect to spend 1000 to 4000 dollars in test prep
- Tip 10 – Kaplan can help
 - Kaplan offers many types of test prep – classroom on site, classroom anywhere (log in to online class), on demand and one-on-one instruction
 - They have many options for each individual – advantage, one-on-one, express, refresher, other options
 - Free programs – seminars, practice tests, and more – see www.kaptest.com

Brienne Hilton: Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator, UMKC Law School

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/>

Topics:

- Information about UMKC Law School
- LSAT entrance exam
- Advice on application process for law school

INTRO

- UMKC is an urban public law school with small liberal arts feel
- 156 students per each class
- One of the friendliest law school

- If you like location, UMKC is just 30 min away
- No separation and could eat with professors if you wanted
- First year students have the exact same schedule
- Law school is straightforward with what classes you must take
- Have mentoring from day 1
- HAVE GREAT ALUMNI NETWORKING AND SUPPORT
- You can go hang your shingle!!!!

ADMISSION

- Requirements
 - No minimum LSAT score – all applicant driven; median LSAT score is 156 and GPA is 3.2
 - Require bachelor's degree or 90 hrs
 - Can cut 1 year out – can apply in Junior year, only electives left, must work out with undergraduate institution for dual degree after first year of law school
 - Personal statement – include what you would add to the class (diversity is sought) and why you stand out; don't make personal statement a duplicate of your resume; tell a great story
 - Resume – one page and highlight what is important
 - 2 Recommendation letters – best if from professors who are impressed by you (they can show how you will engage in the classroom environment)
- Majors
 - Do not have to be a specific major
 - Do what you are passionate about!
 - No right or wrong major

Gene Pegler: Manager of Student Recruitment, UMKC Bloch School

<http://www.bloch.umkc.edu/>

Topics:

- Information about UMKC Bloch School - Business, Accounting Public Administration
- Advice on application process for MBA, MPA and MSA programs
- Overview of financial aid: scholarships, assistantships, fellowships, loans, tuition reimbursement

BLOCH SCHOOL INTRO

- Cost - \$400/hr and \$1200/class
- Programs – Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Accounting and Master of Public Information (MPA classes are less per hour)
- MBA and MSA programs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (it is important to know if your school is accredited by AACSB)
- MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (it is important to know if your school is accredited by NASPAA)

REQUIREMENTS

- With application, submit all of your transcripts, including those for dual enrollment during high school
- Goal statement – one page
- Resume
- Take the GMAT for MBA and MS in Accounting – AVG GMAT is 550 for business and 560 for accounting; GRE is accepted but you must score in the top 50th percentile on both verbal and qualitative
- Take the GRE for the MPA

PROGRAMS

- Master of Science in Accounting is available for non-accounting undergraduate majors
- Undergraduate accounting majors can specialize in Taxation or Audit
- MBA specializations include: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship – with Real Estate Concentration, Finance, General Management, International Business, Leadership and Change in Human Systems, Management Information Systems, Marketing, and Supply Chain and Operations Management
- MPA programs include: Health Services Administration, Nonprofit Management, Urban Administration

FINANCIAL AID

- Fellowships and scholarships provide free money
- Assistantships (research, teaching or administration) are more like workstudy – you work it off
- Each school has scholarships
- Pay attention to application deadlines, UMKC's soft deadline is March 1 (they have rolling admissions – scholarships are more available to early applicants)
- Find employer that will help you pay for education – tuition remission

Q&A

- Stay out of trouble – this can affect your admission, scholarship and acceptance to the bar; be good – financially (credit debt can affect bar, Facebook can affect acceptance to schools)
- Personal Statement should be 1 to 1.5 pgs, double spaced
- Kaplan offers free test prep – one will be held at UMKC on FEB 5th for MCAT and GRE and on DEC 12 for GMAT – sign up at www.kaptest.com
- Talk to school directly, the earlier the better
- Apply for several tiers – dream school, safe school and those in the middle

- Go where you like and might want to stay after school (your networking during grad school will pay off in the city where your school is located)
- If you plan to attend grad school after a few years, take the entrance exams now while you are in the student mode – your scores are good for 5 years



For more information about **GRADUATE SCHOOL**, please review the following links on the Career Services Website, www.jewell.edu/career/:

**Scholarships/Fellowships*

**Broaden Your Horizons*

**Internet Grad Links*