Panel on Identifying and Exploring Graduate Schools

June 17, 2021

SURE Professional Development Module
Meet the host and speakers

Jessie Chen
Program Coordinator, UROP

M.S. – Natural Resources and Environmental Management, UHM

B.S. – Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution, UCLA
Dr. Craig Nelson  
Associate Researcher,  
Center for Microbial Oceanography  
Department of Oceanography, UHM

Ph.D. – Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara  
M.A. – Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara  
B.A. – Integrative Biology & English, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. John Zuern  
Professor; Graduate Director,  
Department of English, UHM

Ph.D. – Comparative Literature, University of Texas–Austin  
M.A. – Comparative Literature, University of Texas–Austin  
M.A. – English, University of Texas–Austin  
B.A. – English, Moorhead State University

Rebecca “Arby” Barone  
Graduate Assistant,  
Honors Program, UHM

M.S. – Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering (current), UHM  
B.S. – Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, UHM  
B.A. – English, UHM
Other esteemed guests

Michelle Tom
Graduate Assistant, UROP, UHM

Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner, UHM (current)
B.S. – Nursing, UHM
B.S. – Medical Dietetics, The Ohio State University

Professor Joel Moffett
Associate Professor, Academy for Creative Media, UHM

MFA – Directing – Theatre, Humboldt State University
MFA – Directing – Film, The American Film Institute Conservatory
B.A. – Communications – Theatre, Chapman University
Degree types

Master’s: M.S., M.A...

Ph.D.

Professional degrees: M.D., J.D...
Degree types

Rarely important:
M.S. vs. M.A.

Sometimes important:
M.Ed. (Education field)
M.B.A. (Business field)
Ph.D. (Advanced degree)

Always important:
M.D. (medical doctor)
J.D. (lawyer)

Questionable medical degree
Has M.D. Real doctor.
6 Considerations

Why grad school?

Program types

Career paths

Advisors

Funding

Admissions
Why go to graduate school? Why not?

Earn more
Worth paying now?
Increase field expertise
What else could you have done with the time?

Access tools
Are there other means?
Be more accomplished
Risk burnout

Pressure from others
Is it what you want?
Explore new career/field
Big committment

https://www.petersons.com/blog/a-guide-for-potential-grad-students-should-you-go-to-graduate-school/#
Why go to graduate school? Why not?

1. List reasons
   - Earn more
   - Access tools
   - Increase expertise

2. What role does a graduate degree play?
   - Do I NEED a graduate degree to ____?
     - Yes
     - No
   - Would a graduate degree HELP?
     - Yes
     - No
   - Consider other options

Choose program type
- Is it worth __?:
  - Time
  - Cost
  - Stress
  - Other sacrifices: ________

Consider other options

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Why grad school
Program types
Career paths
Advisors
Funding
Admissions
Program Types (not the same as Degree Type)

Strictly coursework
- Professionals getting formal education
- Company may pay
- Uncommon in STEM

Research
- Long-term project
- Original work
- Required to write thesis or capstone
- Chance to publish

Practicum/internship
- Supervised, on-site observation and training
- 100’s hours required

Differences are in the requirements: coursework ± thesis ± practicum
Career Paths

Strictly coursework
- Professionals getting formal education
- Company may pay
- Uncommon in STEM
- Already employed, experienced in field

Research
- Long-term project
- Original work
- Required to write thesis or capstone
- Chance to publish
- Not specific to career path

Practicum/internship
- Supervised, on-site observation and training
- Minimum hours required
- Specific career path

Unlicensed social worker
- Sociologist, Neuroscientist, Consultant, etc.

LSW, LCSW, etc.

Why grad school
Program types
Career paths
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Admissions

Strongly influenced by the type of program you pursue
Example: 3 different Sociology careers
Finding the right advisor (if necessary)

**WHY?**
- Need one to be admitted, sometimes
- A professional contact, close colleague, mentor
- Access to resources
- Funding! (up next)

**TIPS**
- Explore faculty pages
- Hone in on top choices
- **PREPARE** before contacting
  - Familiarize yourself with their work
  - Get on their radar early
  - Prove you’re a good fit with their lab, research interests
  - What can you offer them?
- Ask questions: the advisor and previous students

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**Qing X. Li PhD » Faculty**

Qing X. Li PhD
Professor, Department of Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources – University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Work Phone: 808.956.2011  Work Email: qingl@hawaii.edu

**Research Interests**
Proteomics, environmental biochemistry and biotechnology.

**Recent Publications**

**Recent Grants**
- PI, Korean RDA. Studies on biological activity of individual g-oryzanol from agro-food. 2013-2015.

**Current Graduate Students (Chair)**
- Margaret Baker (PhD, MBBE), Glycoproteomics
- Shumei Gao (PhD, Biotechnology), Microbial adaption to chemical stresses
- Chelsea Miller (MS, MBBE), Bioremediation
- Jessica Murison (MS, MBBE), Pesticide exposure
- Camila Ortega (PhD, MBBE), Microbial adaption to chemical stresses
- Daniel Roettger (PhD, MBBE), Biodiesel and yeast genomics
- Ruijin Wang (PhD, Plant Pathology), Phosphoproteomics
- Boting Wen (PhD, Biotechnology), Enzyme structure and function
## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding origin</th>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERNAL</td>
<td>Graduate assistantship (GA) – Research assistant</td>
<td>Stipends paid for research-based academic employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate assistantship (GA) – Program assistant</td>
<td>Stipends paid for work in university program office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching assistantship (TA)</td>
<td>Stipends paid for teaching undergraduate sections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Departmental grants</td>
<td>Varies; may need to apply or be nominated, awarded for academic performance or need-based</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXTERNAL</td>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>Govt. or private; for specific area of study; substantial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private scholarships</td>
<td>From private estates, professional organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loans (federal, private)</td>
<td>Federal unsubsidized; private loans from bank, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Admissions

- Months of study
- Deadline to take it

- May need designated advisor at time of application

- Professional and academic history (e.g. research, awards, publications, etc.)
- Especially important for research programs
- Proofread, have friends edit

- Order official ones early

Standardized exams

Letters of rec

Advisors consent

Curriculum vitae

Personal statement

Transcripts

DON’T LEAVE ANY OF THESE TO THE LAST MINUTE

- 2-3 references
- Usually from professors, perhaps other professionals
- Allow your writers plenty of time; may be appropriate to suggest points
- Different programs have different requirements

- Prompts vary
- Answer the prompt!
- Proofread, have friends edit

KNOW THE DEADLINES

Why grad school
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Tips

Talk to people:
  • In the program
  • In your career of choice

Consider your capacity:
  • Other commitments
  • Family

Outline timeline:
  • Right after undergrad?
  • Take gap year(s) to:
    • Work
    • Travel
    • Take care of family