



### Panel on Identifying and Exploring Graduate Schools

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021  
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Location: Zoom ([RSVP here](#) to receive invitation link)

During this professional development module, speakers will discuss multiple aspects of the process of exploring graduate school programs. Students will gain insight on topics like searching for a program, finding an advisor, and applying.

The event will begin with a presentation on basic considerations when thinking about graduate school. Then, a 3-person panel of guest speakers will each present a 10-minute lightning talk on topics of their choosing. Speakers include 2 UHM faculty members from a STEM field and a humanities field, respectively, as well as a current graduate student. Panelists will provide their unique perspectives on topics like:

- Reasons/expectations for pursuing advanced degrees in their field
- What criteria the programs met and why they chose their respective programs
- Qualities of successful applicants

#### Preparation

Students should **get to know the panelists beforehand**, and **come prepared with questions**. The second hour is an interactive Q&A session with the panelists. You can prepare by reviewing the materials below:



- Agenda
- Speaker profiles
- Worksheet (please fill out before the event)

#### Agenda



9:00 – 9:05 am	Introductions
9:05 – 9:25 am	Considerations when thinking about graduate school (Jessie Chen)
	PANELIST PRESENTATIONS
9:25 – 9:35 am	Dr. Craig Nelson (Oceanography)
9:35 – 9:45 am	Dr. John Zuern (English)
9:45 – 9:55 am	Rebecca “Arby” Barone (Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering)
9:55 – 10:00 am	BREAK
10:00 – 11:00 am	Q&A



## Speaker Profiles



Name and position	Education	Contact
 <b>Jessie Chen (host)</b> Program Coordinator, UROP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• M.S. – Natural Resources and Environmental Management, UHM</li><li>• B.S. – Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution, University of California, Los Angeles</li></ul>	Moore Hall 107 (808) 956-3212 (leave a message) <a href="mailto:urop@hawaii.edu">urop@hawaii.edu</a> <a href="mailto:jessieqc@hawaii.edu">jessieqc@hawaii.edu</a>
 <b>Dr. Craig Nelson</b> Associate Researcher, Center for Microbial Oceanography Department of Oceanography, UHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ph.D. – Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara</li><li>• M.A. – Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara</li><li>• B.A. – Integrative Biology &amp; English, University of California, Berkeley</li></ul>	C-MORE 119 (808) 956-0566 <a href="mailto:cen@hawaii.edu">cen@hawaii.edu</a>



Name and position	Education	Contact
 <p data-bbox="205 727 422 760"><b>Dr. John Zuern</b></p> <p data-bbox="205 784 583 849">Professor; Graduate Director, Department of English, UHM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ph.D. – Comparative Literature, University of Texas–Austin</li><li>• M.A. – Comparative Literature, University of Texas–Austin</li><li>• M.A. – English, University of Texas–Austin</li><li>• B.A. – English, Moorhead State University</li></ul>	<p>Biomed B-104 Kuykendall 219 <a href="mailto:zuern@hawaii.edu">zuern@hawaii.edu</a></p>
 <p data-bbox="205 1279 537 1312"><b>Rebecca “Arby” Barone</b></p> <p data-bbox="205 1336 499 1401">Graduate Assistant, UHM Honors Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• M.S. – Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, UHM (current)</li><li>• B.S. – Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering, UHM</li><li>• B.A. – English, UHM</li></ul>	<p><a href="https://manoa.hawaii.edu/undergrad/honors/">https://manoa.hawaii.edu/undergrad/honors/</a></p>



Other Esteemed Attendees

Name and position	Education	Contact
 A portrait of Joel Moffett, a man with short hair wearing a red and white patterned Hawaiian shirt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B.A. – Communications – Theatre, Chapman University</li><li>• MFA – Directing – Theatre, Humboldt State University</li><li>• MFA – Directing – Film, The American Film Institute Conservatory</li></ul>	Crawford 224 (808) 956-3918 <a href="mailto:moffett@hawaii.edu">moffett@hawaii.edu</a>
<p><b>Joel Moffett</b> Associate Professor Academy for Creative Media, UHM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner, UHM (current)</li><li>• B.S. – Nursing, UHM</li><li>• B.S. – Medical Dietetics, The Ohio State University</li></ul>	Moore Hall 108 (808) 956-7492 <a href="mailto:mmtom@hawaii.edu">mmtom@hawaii.edu</a>
 A portrait of Michelle Tom, a woman with long dark hair wearing a patterned jacket.	<p><b>Michelle Tom</b> Graduate Assistant, UROP</p>	



**Worksheet**

Use this worksheet to help stimulate discussion at the SURE module. Thinking about these topics will help you go into the module with informed questions.

1. Why do you want to go to graduate school? Why not?
2. What do you hope to gain from going to graduate school?
3. What kind of mentor-mentee relationship do you hope to have with your advisor?
4. If you do not go to graduate school, what are your other options?
5. What do you want to do after graduate school?
6. Think of 1 question to ask each panelist based on their backgrounds.  
Examples:  
*What were your degree requirements and how did you fulfill them?*  
*What surprised you the most about being a graduate student?*  
*What was the most difficult aspect of your program?*  
*How did you balance class with professional work/research?*  
*What advice can you offer a new applicant hoping to do \_\_\_\_\_ research at \_\_\_\_\_ school?*

Fill out the following table for at least two graduate/professional programs.

	Program #1:	Program #2:
<b>PROGRAM</b>		
• Types of degrees offered through program		
○ Specializations		
• Professional training program vs. research program		
• Internship or practicum opportunities		
• Research opportunities		



• Length of program		
• Name of potential advisor		
○ Area of expertise		
• Professional networks and organizations		
• Resources and special collections related to your interests		
• Job search and career planning resources		
<b>REPUTATION</b>		
• School/program is known for:		
• Notable alumni		
• Age of program		
• Rankings		
• Graduation rates for graduate program		
<b>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</b>		
• Practicum/professional internship required		
• Clinical hours required		
• Thesis or capstone required		
<b>FINANCES</b>		
• Types of financial assistance offered		
• Cost of tuition		
<b>ADMISSION</b>		
• Standardized tests required		
• No. of letters of rec. needed		
• Interview required		
<b>LIFESTYLE</b>		
• Diversity		



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• Sense of community within graduate program		
• Urban vs. rural		
• Recreational activities		