

Navigating Your Graduate School Decision: *What to Ask!*

Use this guide to check off the questions and topics that matter most to you as you explore graduate programs. It's a quick way to help you figure out your goals, needs, and priorities in a program.

FUNDING

- ☐ Is a graduate assistantship included in your acceptance letter?
- ☐ How do you apply, and is it in your department or elsewhere?
- ☐ Hours per week, tuition assistance, and total funding amount?
- ☐ Are there program-specific or university-wide scholarships? (Check National NSSLHA's Scholarship Resource)
- ☐ Can students work part-time and still succeed?

CULTURE

In-School

- ☐ Was the environment welcoming during your visit/interview?
- ☐ Are there student orgs or affinity groups you'd join?
- ☐ How are concerns addressed?

Outside of School

- ☐ Transportation options and walkability?
- ☐ Access to essentials like groceries, pharmacy, and medical care?

Inclusive and Supportive Community

- ☐ Is diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging reflected in program actions and values?
- ☐ Is the program and surrounding community supportive of you?

RESEARCH

- ☐ Is there a thesis track?
- ☐ Are there professor-led labs or ongoing studies you can join?
- ☐ Can you start your own research topic?

CLINICAL

Internships/On-Campus Clinic

- ☐ When does clinical work begin?
- ☐ Is there an on-campus clinic?

Externships

- ☐ Are placements found for you or do you find your own?
- ☐ How are classwork and placements balanced in the final year?

Use this space for your personal reflections—what stands out, excites you, or any concerns to remember as you compare programs.

| School | Funding | Culture | Research | Clinical |
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