



Applying To Grad School

The Process

Many want you to apply directly to your program of interest. Others may require separate applications for both the program and the institution. Find out each institution's policies and deadlines. Application materials live on their website along with the cost.

Letters of Recommendation

Most ask you to submit these to support your application. They are valuable, so build your network of potential writers and request them early in the process.

Application Fees

Fees vary and many programs are willing to reduce/waive application fees for those with financial difficulties. Don't be afraid to ask! FreeApp is designed to increase access to graduate education at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. Through this program, prospective students can request a graduate application fee waiver for Ph.D. or Master of Fine Arts programs at participating universities.

Transcripts

Schools use these to verify your degree, GPA, and prerequisite coursework required to enter their graduate program. You can usually order transcripts through the Office of the Registrar, and most require them from all post-secondary institutions that you attended. Pay attention to exactly where to send the transcripts.

Resume/ Curriculum Vitae

Many schools require a resume or curriculum vitae (CV) .

Personal Statements

Usually one is required. Articulate your interest in the field, focus on your drive to pursue the degree and the actions you took to develop knowledge and skills in the academic area. Also, be sure to write about your future goals and how their program is aligned with your interests and will prepare you to reach your goals.