

Questions to Ask During a Graduate School or Professional Program Fair

Meeting with representatives from graduate schools or professional programs? Don't just listen—engage! Ask thoughtful questions to demonstrate your enthusiasm, gather meaningful insights, and make a lasting impression.

How to Use This Checklist

- Try not to ask questions that are answered on the school's website.
- Select 1-2 top questions per category based on your priorities.
- Take notes to compare across schools.
- Ask to be connected to current students, alumni, or faculty for deeper insight.
- This structure helps you uncover a school's admissions mindset, program strengths, living/training environment, and real-world outcomes essential to deciding where to apply.

Admissions & Selection Criteria

- What qualities or experiences do you value most in accepted applicants?
- How much weight do you give GPA vs professional, research, or life experience?
- What's the most memorable application you've seen and why?

Academic Experience & Unique Program Features

- What makes this curriculum and campus support unique compared to similar programs?
- How interdisciplinary or flexible is the course path (e.g., cross-listing, dual-tracks)?
- What percentage of students do research, capstones, or publish before graduation?



**Experiential
Learning,
Mentorship &
Community**

- What partnerships or internship pipelines are unique to your program?
- How accessible are faculty/advisors for mentorship beyond class?
- What kind of social/peer events or informal academic gatherings happen?

**Outcomes,
Funding &
Practical
Supports**

- Where are recent alumni working now, and can you share a few examples?
- How many students receive funding (e.g., TA, RA, scholarships) & is it guaranteed each year?
- Do professional development workshops, conferences, or skill-building seminars happen regularly?

Quick Tips (Ask Everyone You Meet):

- “The one thing you *really* need to know about going here, but won’t find out online is...”