PLANNING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
MCNAIR SCHOLARS Q&A
(MARCH 9, 2012)

SEARCH/SELECT/DECIDE

- HOW DO WE LOOK FOR ACCREDITED PROGRAMS?
    - WEB SITE/PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS
    - REGIONAL
    - NATIONAL
    - PROFESSIONAL

- WHAT IS THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAM? (CLASSES, TEACHING, ETC)

- WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR WHILE RESEARCHING POSSIBLE GRADUATE SCHOOLS?
    - PROGRAM
    - GEOGRAPHIC
    - RESEARCH
    - FACULTY
    - LIFESTYLE

- HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT PROGRAM IS BEST FOR ME?

- HOW DO I GO ABOUT CONTACTING CERTAIN GRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS? WHEN SHOULD WE DO THIS?

- IS IT TOO EARLY TO RESEARCH GRADUATE SCHOOLS WHEN YOU HAVE 1 YEAR LEFT OF UNDERGRADUATE?

- WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO CHOOSING A LARGE OR A SMALL GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAM?

PLANNING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
MCNAIR SCHOLARS Q&A
(MARCH 9, 2012)

ATTEND

- HOW LONG CAN WE EXPECT TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL?
    - 6-10 YRS. – MASTER'S THROUGH PH.D.

- WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL
    - PEER DEMOGRAPHICS
    - CLASS SIZE
    - NATURE OF COURSE WORK
    - READING
    - GROUP/TEAMS

- HOW IS GRADUATE SCHOOL DIFFERENT FROM UNDERGRADUATE?

- WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF GRADUATE SCHOOL?

- HOW DO GRADUATE SCHOOLS GRADE YOUR PERFORMANCE?

PLANNING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
MCNAIR SCHOLARS Q&A
(MARCH 9, 2012)

ADMISSION

- WOULD SIMPLY BEING IN THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM BE SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE LOOKED UPON FAVORABLY BY SOMEONE REVIEWING A STUDENT'S APPLICATION TO GRAD SCHOOL?

- HOW IMPORTANT IS GPA WHEN APPLYING TO GRAD SCHOOL VS. HAVING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, ETC?

- WHAT IS THE AVERAGE GRE SCORE FOR MOST GRADUATE SCHOOLS?

- GRE
  - WHEN SHOULD ONE START STUDYING FOR THE GRE
  - WHAT SUBJECTS DOES IT COVER?
    - VERBAL REASONING
    - QUANTITATIVE REASONING
    - ANALYTICAL WRITING
  - SUBJECT TESTS? (BIOCHEM, CELL & MOLECULAR BIO/BIO/CHEM/COMP SCI/LIT IN ENGLISH/MATH/PHYSICS/PSYCH)
  - WHAT IS THE AVERAGE SCORE?
    - REVIEW GRADUATE SCHOOL WEB SITES
  - WHAT A SCORE REPORT LOOKS LIKE?
  - WHAT WOULD BE A REALLY BAD GRE SCORE?
    - WATCH PERCENTILE
  - AN EXCEPTIONAL GRE SCORE?
    - WATCH PERCENTILE
  - HOW IMPORTANT IS THE GRE?
- OTHER THAN TRANSCRIPTS AND GRE SCORE, WHAT OTHER THINGS SHOULD WE PREPARE TO GIVE TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ACCEPTANCE? E.G. RESUME. . .PORTFOLIO, ETC

- WHAT ARE THE TOP QUALITIES THEY LOOK FOR IN APPLICANTS?
  - MOTIVATION
  - SELF-DIRECTED
  - CAN ACCEPT CRITICISM
  - ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (GPA)
  - CONTENT KNOWLEDGE
  - CLEAR IDEA OF GOALS
  - HARD WORKING
- DOES THE GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICANT WAIVER APPLY TO CERTAIN GRADUATE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NOT IN THE UNITED STATES?

- WHAT WOULD BE EXAMPLES OF STRONG REFERENCES TO INCLUDE IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION? (PROFESSORS, MANAGERS, MENTORS, ADVISORS, CLUB LEADER, ETC)

- HOW CAN I MAKE MY APPLICATIONS FROM A SMALL SCHOOL LOOK APPEALING TO A LARGE POOL OF APPLICANTS?
- WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ASPECTS DO GRADUATE SCHOOL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FOR ADMISSION? (I.E. BESIDES GRADES, RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE)

PLANNING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
MCNAIR SCHOLARS Q&A
(MARCH 9, 2012)

FINANCIAL

- HOW EXPENSIVE WOULD THE AVERAGE MASTER'S DEGREE BE? THE AVERAGE PHD?
  - ~$20-40,000
  - LIVING EXPENSES ~$10-15,000

- WHAT IS A FELLOWSHIP AND WILL IT PERTAIN TO ME?
  - ASSIGNED TO A PROGRAM, LAB, FACULTY
  - ADVICE FOR WRITING A FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

- WHERE CAN I LOOK TO FIND OUT ABOUT FELLOWSHIPS PER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

- WHAT OTHER FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR A VARIETY OF SCHOOLS? (MCNAIR ACCEPTANCE)
  - ASSISTANTSHIPS
  - GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS
  - RESIDENCY

- WHAT IF I CANNOT AFFORD GRADUATE SCHOOL?

PLANNING TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
MCNAIR SCHOLARS Q&A
(MARCH 9, 2012)

LIVING

- DO MOST GRADUATE SCHOOLS OFFER ON CAMPUS LIVING?
    - RESIDENTIAL/FULL-TIME VS. PART-TIME
    - GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING VS. NO DISTINCTION: ON- AND OFF- CAMPUS