

# Graduate School

About a third of Cornell seniors pursue further education immediately after graduation, while many wait a year or more before applying to gain professional experience and make certain of their interest in a profession.

Deciding to attend graduate school is a big commitment. First be certain of your career choice, then determine whether an advanced degree is required. Talk with advisors in Cornell Career Services in 103 Barnes Hall as well as Cornell faculty and graduate students for their advice and perspective as you make this decision.

## Graduate or Professional School

These educational programs differ in the following ways:

- Graduate research degrees, for instance, a Ph.D. in English or physics, emphasize original research that adds to existing knowledge. Graduate research degrees typically lead to academic careers or research in the private sector.
- Professional school degrees in fields such as medicine, law, and social work emphasize acquiring knowledge and skills to meet requirements for practice in the field.

### Fields Most Frequently Selected\*

Engineering-25%

Law-15%

Medicine-12%

Biological Sciences-9%

Health Fields Other than Medicine-5%

Veterinary Medicine-5%

Computer and Information Science-4%

Business and Management-3%

Physical Sciences-3%

\*From a recent survey of graduating Cornell seniors

## Application Process

Cornell offers a number of resources to assist you throughout the process.

- Pick up a copy of the appropriate graduate application guide at Cornell Career Services (CCS) in 103 Barnes Hall.
- Conduct research on graduate schools, personal statements, test preparation, etc., in the CCS Library in 103 Barnes Hall.
- Attend workshops and orientations on the application process offered each semester.

- Meet with an advisor in Barnes Hall from help in applying for health-related programs, law school, or other graduate or professional programs. Call 255-5296 to schedule an appointment.
- Decide when to take the appropriate admission test and investigate how to prepare for it.
- Attend Graduate and Professional School Days held each fall and speak with representatives from schools across the U.S. about their programs.
- Obtain test bulletins and registration forms for the various tests in 103 Barnes Hall, or visit websites of test administrators, for example, GRE for graduate research degrees at [gre.org](http://gre.org).
- Identify faculty with whom you have studied and/or conducted research to ask for recommendations.
- Maintain confidential letters until you need them through Interfolio.com, an online credentials service, which will store recommendations up to five years.
- Register with the Health Careers Evaluation committee (HCEC) for recommendations for medical school ([career.cornell.edu/HealthCareers/HCEC/default.html](http://career.cornell.edu/HealthCareers/HCEC/default.html)).

### Law School Day

September 22, 2009

### Graduate School Day

September 23, 2009

11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Barton Hall

## Funding Graduate Study

Many graduate programs offer funding through teaching and research assistantships. In addition, there are numerous fellowships and scholarships available. Cornell Career Services offers programs, advising, and guides on eligibility and application procedures for prestigious awards.

- Pick up the fellowship guide and attend a workshop on the application process.
- Meet with the fellowship advisor to discuss your qualifications and the application process.