Is Graduate School right for you?

• **How to apply to Graduate School**
  - Assess readiness and motivation
  - Determine what is important to you
  - Reflection/Discernment

• **How to know grad school is right for you?**
  - Passionate
  - Research
  - Intrinsically motivated
  - Reading/Writing - Research
  - Interacting with Academics
  - Competitive in jobs

• **Where, What and Why?**
  - Do research on where you want to be, what you want to study and the various programs available.

• **Choosing a specialty**
  - Depends on Interest (see what fields are out there)
  - What you study in Graduate school doesn’t make it set in stone
    - Many fields overlap (applies to many fields)

• **What Type of Degree**
  - **MS:** (2-3 Years)
    - More coursework
    - Research Thesis (Direct Advisor, 1-2 significant papers)
    - Careers (wide Variety: Govt., Education, etc.)
  - **PhD:** (3-5 Years)
    - Coursework
    - Dissertation (3-5 Scientific Papers).
    - Careers (Industry, College Prof., etc.)
  - **PSMs:** (MPH,MBA, MAT, MF, MSW, MSN, DPN, PharmD)
    - Professional practice
    - Could be online, etc.

• **Research Schools**
  - Make a List (Spreadsheet)
  - Specialties, Programs, Etc. (look into recent research journals)
  - Program Rankings? (Princeton Review, usnews rankings)
  - Program requirements
  - Appealing location

• **GRE:**
  - 3 Sections (Verbal, Quantitative and writing)
  - Subject Exams: Multiple Choice

• **Apply**
  - Fall
  - List of programs, (Deadlines, requirements, costs, required components.
    - CV/Resume
    - Essay – Highlight experience, specific research/projects/internships and talk about why you like the program
    - Letters of Recommendation - (One research/academic advisor) – have them highlight skills specific to the program/research.
      - Give writers advanced notice, with information.