Psi Chi/UPO Meeting Minutes

2/16/15

Experiences in Grad School Application Process

**Description:** A few undergrads discussed their experiences and advice on applying and interviewing for graduate school programs.

Jordan

* Think about GRE in at least your Junior year
  + Prioritize time into studying and preparing for the test
  + Give yourself a few months to prepare
  + Most schools have their averages listed on their websites
  + Good time to take the test in the summer months
* Start emailing mentors and checking their sites to determine whether or not they are accepting students for the next year
* Begin your CV and personal statements
  + Get as much feedback as possible, and give yourself time to get it looked over by as many people as possible
  + This might be one of the most important pieces of your application
* Give time for your GRE scores and possible transcripts to be mailed/sent to your schools
* Should be ready to submit the first week in November
* Be normal, and be nice
  + Even though you are competing against the other attendees, you are being evaluated on how you interact with the other people
* Know your advisor’s research and be able to answer questions regarding your own and their research
* Pay attention to the graduate students and how they interact
  + Think about if you can be happy in that program

Brett

* Cognitive perspective is a little different
* Do not wait to start narrowing down schools, it takes a lot of time and effort
* Don’t be too specific or vague when describing research interests in personal statements
  + Be involved in research and know what you are interested in and areas of future study
  + Have your elevator spiel about your research interests

Olivia

* Big part of clinical interviews are personality-related
  + Be yourself
* Have a list of questions to ask
* Think about the program as if whether or not you can see yourself there for the next several years

Mike Dodd

* The way that you present yourself can make or break your interview
  + Be relaxed
* In group interviews, don’t clam up or overpower
  + Have different responses prepared and be ready to answer follow-up questions

Questions:

* How do you handle multiple offers?
  + Start narrowing down the list again and make decisions
* Toughest questions that you had to answer
  + Just be ready to be caught off guard
  + Just be self-aware
* Are GRE or GPA weighted more heavily?
  + Schools vary immensely
* Talk about strengths and weaknesses
  + Use something that was a weakness that you have overcome
  + Don’t frame yourself in a bad light, but also be honest