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