



# How to apply to graduate school

# Who We Are...

---



Jennifer Spirer  
Sr. Associate Director of Admissions & Recruiting  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Information Networking Institute  
18 Years of Higher Ed Experience



Athena Wintruba  
Associate Director of Admissions  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Integrated Innovation Institute  
10 Years of Higher Ed Experience



# Research

---

- Consult online and print sources
- Attend graduate fairs and conferences
- Plan a visit (in person/virtually)
- Informational interviews
- Affordability

# Apply

---

- Online application.
  - You can request application fee waivers
- Transcripts
- Standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, TOEFL ...)
- Recommendations
- Resume/Research
- Personal Statement/Essays

# Writing an application essay

---

- *Relate your past and present experiences to the future:* Your past and present work is relevant only if it relates directly to your future plans.
- *Elaborate on your qualifications:* Emphasize the qualifications you have gained from your experiences; don't just list the experiences themselves.
- *Specifically explain why this institution is the best fit for you:* You must show how your professional or research interests match the department's academic strengths.
- Make sure you use appropriate grammar, and your writing is clear: Have someone proof-read your essay before submitting it.



# Apply ... continued

---

- Portfolio
  - Demonstrate abilities & expertise
  - Illustrate potential & fit for grad program
  - Opportunity for self reflection
- Interview (if required/available)



# What Matters

---

- Relevant Coursework/Good grades
- Prepare for the standardized tests
- Highlight your research experience
- Experiences align with your interests
- Use components of the application to introduce yourself
- Follow application directions
- Apply by the deadline!



# Resources

---

- **Writing the Personal Statement** - <https://www.gograd.org/resources/grad-school-personal-statement/>
- **Guide for Grad School** - <https://www.petersons.com/blog/a-guide-for-potential-grad-students-should-you-go-to-graduate-school/>
- **Salary Information** - <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/should-i-get-a-masters-degree.htm#STEM>



# Let's Stay Connected

---



CMU Engineering



CMU Engineering



CMU Engineering



CMU Engineering