Georgia Tech Undergraduate Education
Pre-Graduate & Pre-Professional Advising

Look Beyond the Application

Beyond the application requirements themselves, we encourage you to reflect on and consider other important factors before applying somewhere or before accepting an offer of admission.

Ask yourself questions about the programs you're applying to as well as the larger campus you'll be on. Will you have access to the things you need and want to be healthy physically, emotionally, culturally etc.?

Emotional Well-Being

- What makes you happy? What brings you joy? How do you take your mind of the stress you feel?
- Will I be able to be part of a community that I have linguistic/religious/cultural/ethnic affinities with?
- What types of mental health services are available for graduate students specifically?
- What are my hobbies? Will I have access to what I need to pursue my hobbies?
- Is it important that my classmates and professors look like me?
- Will I feel safe in terms of my identities?

Career Development

- What type of career development services are available for graduate students specifically in the department and through a career center?
- Can graduate students attend on-campus and online career fairs hosted by the university?
- If I want to pursue a job in academia after I graduate, can I get support with my job application through a Center for Teaching and Learning or through faculty that I work with?

Student Representation

- Do graduate students have representation on campus in the form of a student government, particular reserved spaces in the library, etc.?
- Can graduate students use all of the same facilities as undergraduates such as the recreational center? Health center?
- Is there an office dedicated solely to graduate education? Does that office offer events for graduate students related to financial matters, networking, etc.?
- Are there mechanisms in place for graduate students to lodge complaints about academic matters?
- Is there housing just for graduate students on campus?

Geography

- What kind of weather am I willing to experience for the length of my program? Extensive, long and cold winters? Mild winters? High, intense heat?
- Will my allergies be worse in the areas I'm thinking of living in?
- What type of topography? Mountains? Beach? Plains?
- Large city? Smaller city? Rural? Small town near a city?
- Will I have access to a major airport?
- How far am I willing to move away from friends and family?
- Do I want to uproot myself from my current living situation to move somewhere entirely new?

Family and Friends

- Will I have a network of family and/or friends that live close enough and who can support me in my time in graduate school?

Reaching out to current students

See if the program websites list current students and emails. If not use LinkedIn to find people in the programs or who very recently graduated. Reach out to them and ask if they will chat with you about their experiences. No website or professor will give you the same kind of information.