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## Graduate School Guide

favor; request all recommendations at least *2 months in advance of the submission deadline*.

Grad schools require letters to be completed in their own recommendation forms or electronically:

- *Recommendation forms* are created/utilized by some grad schools. Provide these forms to your recommenders; include stamped envelopes addressed to the schools and faculty members to whom the forms are to be sent.
- *Electronic recommendation systems* are utilized by some grad schools. You'll be asked to provide your recommender's name and contact info. Your recommender then receives an email from the school with a link/directions to complete/submit their letters.

Resume/Curriculum Vitae (CV): Grad schools require a *CV* or *resume* as a supplemental document. It is key to understand which is required and their differences (see our [CV Guide](#) &

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If you are working and considering grad school, find out if your employer offers *tuition reimbursement assistance*. Examine your career goals, investigate if your employer has tuition reimbursement programs and learn about the specifications. You'll be surprised to find out that employers are willing to cover some of the cost of **your** advanced education.

Most students will have the need to finance their education through loans, *borrowed money*. It's a decision not to take lightly since you'll have to pay back the loans with accrued interest. Learn about loan types ([Direct Unsubsidized & Direct Plus Loans](#)) and terms/conditions of accepting. Check your credit score before applying to school to learn how it can impact your school loans. Learn about [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF) and check your eligibility.

Additional resources to fund your education:

[FPU Scholarships](#) | if you plan to attend FPU for grad school, there are scholarships available!

[Peterson's](#) | find 5,000+ scholarship providers & \$10 billion+ in scholarship awards.

[Gradschools.com Scholarships](#) | tips on where to look in your scholarship search.

[Gradschools.com Fellowships](#) | tips on where to look in your fellowship search.



## SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION + RECEIPT CONFIRMATION

Some graduate schools accept applications by *mail*, while others accept them *online*. It is imperative that you understand the submission process and deadlines for each school.

### Submission + Receipt Confirmation Tips:

If *mailing* your grad school application packet, be sure to include *all required documents*:

- Make a *photocopy* of the application and documents for each grad school.
- You may want to *postmark* your application packet.
- Use a *legal-size envelope*; include the correct designation and your return address.
- Enclose a *self-addressed, stamped postcard* with each application with a message "Please send to verify receipt of application," this way the school can return to verify receipt.
- Include the *application fee* or *fee waiver* (see details below).

If *applying online* understand the process and label each of your documents accurately:

- *Complete all parts* of the applications to avoid submitting an incomplete application.
- *Upload all* required and supplemental documents.
- Have a credit card ready to cover the *application fee* or have your *fee waiver* available.
- Check the *status* of your application online and documents received/processed.

**Application Fee Waivers** | Many grad schools/programs have application fee waivers available (not typically publicly announced) for eligible U.S. citizens/permanent residents based on program participation, income need, or members of a particular demographic, minority, or underrepresented group. Reach out to the school's program, admissions, and financial aid offices to inquire about fee waivers and gather information on the process for applying. You may need to be persistent: it's helpful if you can inquire with an admissions counselor that you are already in contact with.

Sample Fee Waiver Inquiry for Undocumented/DACA-Eligible Students



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## RECEIVING A RESPONSE + EVALUATING YOUR OPTIONS

You have successfully navigated the application process and completed an outstanding interview! The waiting period is almost over; you begin to receive responses from graduate schools. Mixed emotions are

