

- 
- ▶ **Finding the Right
Grad School Program:
It's more than a Google search**



Dana Mordecai

Assistant Director, Graduate Recruitment

- 17 years in graduate enrollment management
- President of the Texas Graduate Admissions Professionals organization
- Friend of McNair since 2009
- Countless McNair conferences and visits



Introduction



Your turn

A: Have already made my grad school selection.

B: Have already started the search process.

C: Have not started looking at all.

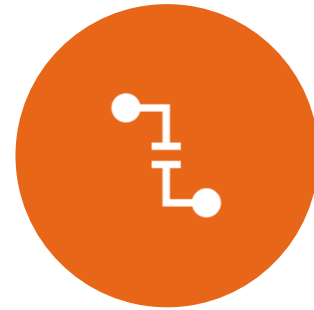




GETTING STARTED



EVALUATE PROGRAMS -
THINGS TO CONSIDER



NOW WHAT?

Getting Started

GET THOSE SPREADSHEETS READY

Getting Started

- ▶ **Define program interest**
 - ▶ Current research topic
 - ▶ Passion project
 - ▶ Need flexibility for future decision?

- ▶ **Resources to find programs**
 - ▶ Faculty, McNair staff, grad school fairs/recruiters, and Google too!
 - ▶ [Gradschoolmatch.com](https://www.gradschoolmatch.com)
 - ▶ [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com)



Other ideas??

Example networking spreadsheet for finding labs : Networking

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Email sent	Response	Notes:
Professor Anderson	Worked in lab for past 3 years	CAnderson@school.edu		yes	no	Professor is terrible at emails, might want to follow up in person
Emily Smith	Anderson's Grad Student, I worked directly under- has mentored me in the past	ESmith@school.edu	283-343-4852	no		Need to ask in person to get lunch
Professor Petrov	Took multiple classes with him	DPetrov@school.edu		yes	yes	Said to come to his office hours MWF 3pm
Jacob Marks	Petrov's first year grad student, TAed my class	JMarks@school.edu		no		didn't have a great relationship with, but should still reach out to him
Alexis DiMarco	Friend in the same field, graduated two years earlier and went to grad school	ADiMarco@school.edu	473-285-2954	yes	yes	Said we should schedule a video chat to talk about all the places she applied and some professors she collaborates with now. Also said to contact her friend Erin Scherer
Erin Scherer	Alexis' friend at a different school, but studying something more closely related to what I want to study	EScherer@school.edu		yes	no	Should follow up in a week
Lee Wang	Aunt Caroline's contact who has a PhD and has been working for 10 years in a similar field	LWang@company.com		no		Aunt Caroline says to contact in two weeks after things die down at work
Jenn Levy	Emily's friend from undergrad she put me in contact with	JLevy@company.com		yes		Jenn did her undergrad with Emily, then got a masters, and has been working for a year in my field. Emily gave me an e-introduction

Evaluate Programs

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING
YOUR OPTIONS



Quality of Program

- ▶ Reputation of faculty and/or program
- ▶ Do you need/want a Tier One school?
- ▶ U.S. News and World report
- ▶ Other program rankings





OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Faculty Information System

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#)

Ed Dzialowski

Title Professor

Department Biological Sciences

College College of Science

Life Sciences Complex B222

Ed.Dzialowski@unt.edu

www.biol.unt.edu/~edzial

(940) 565-3631

General Information

[Previous Scheduled Teaching](#)

[Publications](#)

[Research](#)

Curriculum Vitae

[Click Here to View Faculty CV](#)

Education

PhD, Drexel University, 1999.

Major: Control of heat exchange in reptiles by distributing blood flow to the limbs and torso

MS, Drexel University, 1995.

Major: Physiological control of heat exchange in lizards

BA, Kalamazoo College, 1993.

Major: Biology

Quality of Program



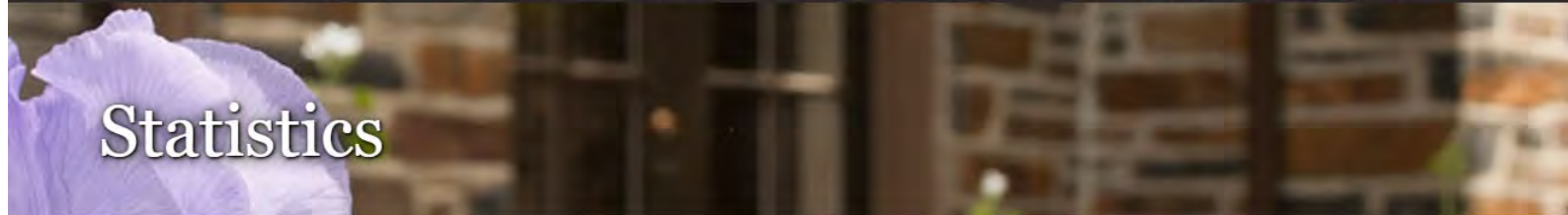
Program Outcomes



Facilities



Academic and research fit to your goals



Statistics

[Home](#) > [About](#)

Statistics

In an effort to provide comprehensive information for all interested individuals, The Duke University Graduate School posts summary data on its Ph.D. and master's programs. These data include information such as total applications, admissions, matriculations, demographics, median GRE and GPA scores, and career outcomes.

ALL DEPARTMENTS

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- [All Departments: PhD Admissions and Enrollment Statistics](#)
- [All Departments: PhD Completion Rates Statistics](#)
- [All Departments: PhD Time to Degree Statistics](#)
- [All Departments: PhD Career Outcomes Statistics](#)
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- [All Departments: Master's Career Outcomes Statistics](#)

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[Graduate Education at Duke](#)

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- [All Departments: PhD Completion Rates](#)

- [All Departments: PhD Time to Degree Statistics](#)

- [All Departments: PhD Career Outcomes Statistics](#)

- [All Departments: Master's Admissions and Enrollment ...](#)

Geographic Location



- ▶ Weather/climate
- ▶ Cost of living
- ▶ Other opportunities during and after your grad career

Student Support: Beyond Your Academic Department

Professional Development

- Workshops
- Teacher training programs

Thesis/Dissertation support

- Bootcamps
- iThenticate by TurnItIn

Travel grants and other research support

- Funding for conference travel
- Funding for research expenses

Additional funding like institutional scholarships

- Pro Tip: Look for support to seek external funding

Access to tools for grad students

- Pd.Education - supporting writing and critical thinking

UChicagoGRAD helps you develop skills to support your success as a graduate student, postdoc, and as a professional.

Increase the impact of your scholarship with effective communication and teaching

[Fellowship Advising](#)

One-on-one and small group consultations to identify tailored funding opportunities.

[Diversity](#)

Resources for graduate students and postdocs to discuss issues, concerns, etc. related to diversity as it affects their academic and career development

[GRADTalk](#)

Programs and resources to help graduate students and postdocs increase the impact of their scholarship and build public speaking skills.

[Sounding Board](#)

Private sessions to discuss optimizing their work/life balance and satisfaction; connecting with university resources; and problem-solving while navigating their academic and professional careers.

[Writing Resources](#)

Writing support tailored to distinct needs of graduate students and postdocs

[Teaching Resources](#)

The University is committed to helping you succeed as you learn and exercise the craft of teaching, and as part of the University, you play a vital role in contributing to our shared traditions of scholarship and teaching.

[Academic Exchange Program](#)

Exchange programs allow doctoral students to take advantage of faculty, classes, and research centers at 25 partner institutions

[Council on Advanced Studies Workshops](#)

Council on Advanced Study Workshops facilitate interdisciplinary exchange of ideas between students and faculty

[English Language Institute](#)

Courses and tutoring to strengthen English language skills and cultural knowledge

[Chicago Center for Teaching](#)

The Chicago Center for Teaching offers pedagogical training for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty members

Student life: Beyond Your Academics

Campus climate and culture

- Diversity
- Emphasis on research
- Social atmosphere

Graduate student government or advocacy group

- Other student orgs

Community relationship

- Students
- Locals

Funding Opportunities

IT'S MORE THAN YOUR OFFER LETTER

Understand their funding model

Is funding part of the admissions consideration?

How long is it offered?
Does it start Day 1?

What additional benefits come with an offer?

- Tuition remission
- Health insurance
- Parking options

What else does the institution offer to grad students?

- McNair Scholarship
- Diversity focused scholarship
- Are these stackable?

Now what?



Next steps for your search



Submit request for information



Reach out to program

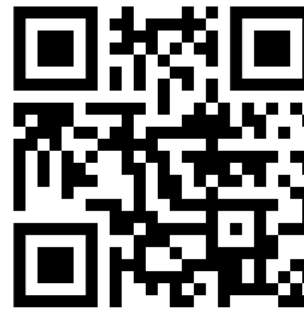


Talk to grad school recruiters

Resources

- ▶ **Get Me To Grad School Blog - getmetograd.com**
 - ▶ Email templates for reaching out to faculty; tips on questions to ask current grad students; how to detect and avoid bad advisors

- ▶ **Council of Graduate Schools - cgsnet.org**
 - ▶ GradSense resource offering tips on student debt, cost of living, etc





QUESTIONS?

Email: dana.mordecai@unt.edu