# IDS 4930 Grad School 101



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**Office Hours:** Virtual; Email me for appointment

## OVERVIEW

This course is designed for anyone who is thinking about graduate school in the future and would like to enhance their preparation and make a more informed decision. The course provides an opportunity to gain a better understanding of graduate programs, plan ahead, and reflect on whether graduate school is the right path for you. Students will learn about the graduate school application process, different types of graduate programs, the day-to-day life of graduate students, and how to effectively prepare for a future in graduate study today.

## OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will:

- evaluate the value of a graduate education
- make an informed decision regarding post-graduation education
- construct a graduate school preparation timeline
- create a budget and table of funding/cost-of-living data for graduate programs
- craft and refine application materials for graduate school
- outline their intended path from graduate school to career

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grading percentages are as follows:

- Discussion posts and replies: 10%
- Possible Lives Exercise: 5%
- Grad Student Budget and Funding Table: 10%
- Faculty Profiles: 10%
- CV: 15%
- Experience Timeline: 5%

- Statement of Purpose: 15%
- Final Portfolio: 30%

**Grading scale:**

A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=86.5-89.4; B=82.5-86.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=76.5-79.4; C=72.5-76.4;

C- =69.5-72.4; D+=66.5-69.4; D=62.5-66.4; D-=59.5-62.4; E=<59.5

## COURSE POLICIES

### Academic Integrity

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students should make sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/). On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

On the use of generative AI tools (ChatGPT, etc.) in this course:

The use of such tools is permitted and may be valuable for activities such as brainstorming and refining ideas, finding information on selected topic, drafting an outline to organize thoughts, and checking grammar and style. Students may not submit any work generated by an AI program as their own, however. For example, students must not use generative AI tools to compose responses on class forums, write a draft of an assignment, write full sentences or paragraphs of assignments, or to complete class assignments.

### Late work

Timely submission of assignments is critical to your success in this course. Unexcused late work will be accepted up to five days after the deadline, but will be assessed a 10 percent deduction per day late. It is your responsibility to ensure that assignments are submitted on time and correctly in Canvas (please double check your uploads for content and technical errors before the deadline). Assignments sent to the instructor outside of Canvas will not be accepted. Students in need of an extension for medical or other reasons should meet with the instructor prior to the assignment deadline if possible. If you miss a deadline due to extraordinary circumstances beyond your control, you are responsible for informing the instructor as soon as possible and making arrangements to complete the missing assignment.

### Accessibility and accommodations

This course intends to make learning accessible to all. The University of Florida Disability Resource Center further aims to provide a universally accessible community that supports the holistic advancement of students with disabilities. If you have a documented medical, physical, psychological, and learning disability or other difference that might require accommodations or modification of the course procedures, please contact the Disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu/contact-us/) to register. Students who receive an accommodation letter must present it to the instructors when discussing accommodations. Please follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course materials**

Course materials will be provided through Canvas by the instructor.

**Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under 2 GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

**SCHEDULE**

**Module 1 (Weeks 1-2): Defining Grad School**

*Field Guide to Grad School*, Ch.1, "A Sketch of Grad School"

HW: discussion post and reply #1 (By Jan 24)

**Module 2 (Weeks 3-4): The Choice to Go to Grad School**

Chamorro-Premuzic, "Should You Go to Graduate School?"

Schneider and Klor de Alva," The Master's as the New Bachelor's Degree: In Search of the Labor Market Payoff"

Goff, "20 Honest Reasons Not to Attend Grad School"

Shuman, "Thesis Hatement."

HW: Possible Lives Exercise; discussion post and reply #2 (By Feb 7)

**Module 3: (Weeks 5-6): Paying for Grad School**

*The Graduate School Funding Handbook*, Ch. 1 & 2

HW: Personal Budget and Cost-of-Living Table; discussion post and reply #3 (By Feb 21)

**Module 4 (Weeks 7-8): The Application**

Networking and References skills module

Application materials examples

HW: Faculty profiles; CV (By Mar 7)

**Module 5 (Weeks 9-10): Preparing for Grad School**

Goal Setting Skills Module

UF Career Connections Center, "Graduate School Preparation Guide."

HW: Experience Timeline; discussion post and reply #4 (By Mar 28)

**Module 6 (Weeks 11-12): The Grad Student Experience**

*Field Guide to Grad School,* Ch. 12

Elia, "Grad School: Expectations vs. Reality"

HW: Statement of Purpose; discussion post and reply #5 (By Apr 11)

**Module 7 (Weeks 13-14): Life After School**

*Field Guide to Grad School,* Ch. 11

Interviewing Skills Module

Review: NSF, "Survey of Earned Doctorates," 2023.

*Portfolios due last day of classes (Apr 23)