



Graduate School Glossary

Accreditation:

Recognition of an educational institution by an independent private organization. Over one hundred accrediting agencies exist. Some are recognized by the Department of Education and the Council of Higher Education Accreditation. Note that some are phony or fraudulent. Find a graduate program with a credible

in the sciences, business, social sciences, and education.

Assistantship:

Some graduate programs offer assistantships as a form of financial support for full time graduate students. Assistantships usually will pay tuition (full or a steep discount), fees and also provide you with small stipend in exchange for you to work (18-25 hours per week is standard) as a research assistant for a faculty member; other assistantships may be for teaching, administrative, or counseling, depending on the academic program. They are competitive.

Fellowship:

A scholarship that, in many cases, is awarded based on merit. There is no work required for a fellowship.

Internship:

Work experience as part of a field of study, which usually takes place over several months. It may be full-time, may require you to move, and you may be paid. An internship may be required for graduation from a graduate program, but may be waived under certain circumstances.

Stipend:

A monetary grant to a student to cover costs other than tuition and fees.

Personal Essay/Statement:

The Personal essay includes information on you, the applicant as an individual, your academic and career goals, and your experiences and activities that shaped your interests. The personal statement is very important and can determine your acceptance to a graduate program. Your writing ability is assessed by this essay. (Also Known As: Admissions Essay, Application Essay, Graduate School Essay, Statement of Intent, Statements of Purpose, Statement of Interests, Statement of Goals).

Thesis:

A written work containing the results of research on a specific topic prepared by a candidate for a bachelor's or master's degree; a work of research culminating the research conducted by you and supervised by your advisor.

Dissertation:

A significant body of original empirical research designed to make a substantial contribution to a discipline or field of study. This work is associated with doctoral study, and often takes years to complete.

graduate schools. For instance, clinical
ants to fulfill requirements for some classes. A
y only lasts as long as the length of the course

and include degrees with descriptive titles, such
ocial Work (M.S.W.), Master of Education (M.Ed.),
care you for a particular profession. Any further
nter your career field. Other "terminal" degrees
e, public administration, and urban planning.

ities and reasoning skills.

d for admission to graduate program to earn a
hool entrance exams for admission to a law

required for most MBA and business school
ance exams for programs in business.

s, fine arts and social science graduate-level
kills more than the GRE does.

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Committee Chair:

The chairperson of the thesis/dissertation is a faculty member in the department the student is studying in. Choice of a chairperson is made by the student according to his/her proposed area of research. The chairperson acts as the academic advisor, as well as assuming primary responsibility for guiding the student