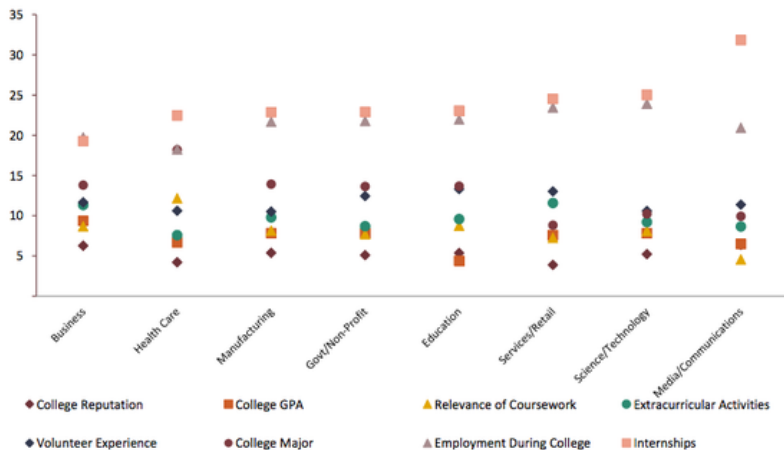


What do you want to do?

- ▶ School is a means, not an end
- ▶ What do you love? What are your strengths, weaknesses?
- ▶ What is your dream job? Informational interviews
- ▶ Have alternatives - what is your plan B?

What are employers looking for?

Relative Importance of Attributes in Evaluating Graduates for Hire by Industry



Finding a grad school: Research the Program

- ▶ **KEY: program emphasis and relevant faculty**

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- ▶ resources (fieldsites, labs)
- ▶ curriculum (MA thesis or exam? courses? etc)
- ▶ financial aid

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- ▶ are they respected? highly cited? (CVs)
- ▶ Do you like their work?
- ▶ Do they have funded research?
- ▶ do they have a fieldsite/lab?
- ▶ what are their students doing?

The short list

- ▶ Contact prospective advisors (academic degrees)
- ▶ Requirements for admission, deadlines etc.

Application materials: letters of reference

- ▶ who to ask?
- ▶ how to ask?
- ▶ brag sheets and papers
- ▶ follow up and reminders
- ▶ waiving access?

Application materials: statement of purpose

- ▶ focus: your interests and aims
- ▶ fit: why this school/ program? justify
- ▶ your background and skills

Statement of purpose: do's and don'ts

- ▶ no childhood references, normally no K-12
- ▶ only personal details that are directly relevant
- ▶ weak areas
- ▶ tone, words to avoid
- ▶ follow directions
- ▶ show it to others, edit

Recall and analyze experience

Write short paragraphs on the following:

- ▶ pick a memorable accomplishment? what did you do?
- ▶ What important activities have you done?
- ▶ What work experiences have you had?

- ▶ Review, use as raw material for your essay

Your career goals

Write two short paragraphs:

- ▶ What career have you chosen? Why?
- ▶ What evidence shows that this is realistic?
- ▶ Review, use as raw material for your essay