

**THINKING
ABOUT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
IN THE
ARTS AND
SCIENCES?**

BARNARD
Dean of Studies

Getting Started

Thinking about graduate school in the arts and sciences? While most graduate school advising takes place in academic departments, the Dean of Studies Office offers a number of useful services to supplement departmental efforts. This brochure is designed to give an overview of what we can provide to prospective graduate school applicants.

You should begin by consulting the faculty members who know you and your work best. Would going on to graduate school be the right move for you? What are some of the fundamental realities of graduate school admission and funding—and of academic and non-academic hiring—in your particular field? A frank consideration of these questions is an essential first step. Once you've decided to apply, you'll need to put some effort into finding out which programs would be most suitable for you. In applying to colleges you may have used one of a number of comprehensive directories that rank colleges according to various criteria, but for graduate school in the arts and sciences no such single, convenient volume exists, to our knowledge. To put together a list of programs, you'll again want to consult members of your department. Depending on your field, you may want to consult several faculty members in order to get a variety of perspectives on programs in your discipline. Again, faculty members who know you and your work well will in general be best able to help you.

Once you've had these conversations, or sooner if need be, feel free to consult Dean Schneider for some general advice about the application process. While he does not have a detailed knowledge of individual programs in various fields, he should be able to suggest some basic questions that you'll want to ask along the way, to help you learn about, evaluate, and compare programs. And he will be happy to discuss with you any

or all of the following services provided by the Dean of Studies Office:

Recommendations

Prospective applicants are welcome to open recommendations files, at no charge, in the Dean of Studies Office. Students who are interested in doing so should request an information packet from the receptionist in the Office of the Dean of Studies, and should feel free to speak with the recommendations assistant or with Dean Schneider if they have any questions about policies and procedures. For advice on when to open a file and how to go about establishing your dossier, see Dean Schneider. You are under no obligation to use our recommendations service, but keep in mind that faculty members often find the service to be the best and most convenient way to go.

Graduate Record Examinations

The Dean of Studies Office usually has copies of the GRE Information Bulletin, as well as application materials. Information is also available at the ETS website: www.gre.org. We do not distribute information about various prep courses (Princeton Review, Stanley Kaplan, e.g.), and we do not recommend any one particular review course. For general advice on when to take the exam(s), which exam(s) to take, and how graduate schools may use your scores, start by consulting Dean Schneider.

"Peterson's Graduate Programs in...."

The Dean of Studies Office maintains a collection of recent Peterson's guides to graduate programs, which provide detailed information about many programs: degrees and subjects offered; application procedures and deadlines; contact information. Prospective applicants should consult

