Graduate School 101:
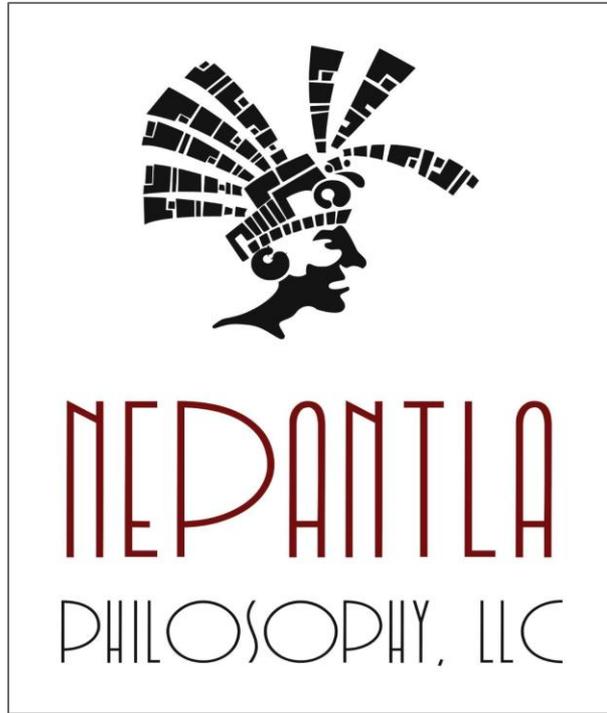
Application Process
& Special Considerations in Humanities,
Social Sciences & Law

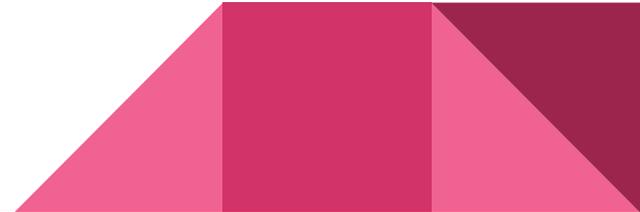## Undocu-Spartan Student Resources
Juan Ruiz, MA

Who am I? Why am I here?

- Juan Ruiz Cortes, MA (Philosophy, 2018)

- Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, BA

- Founded Nepantla Philosophy, LLC

  - Created a limited liability company with a mission to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education through programming, professional training, and consulting.

- *Undocumented non-DACA entrepreneur*

Take a deep breath!

1. *I will provide you with a lot of information!*

2. *I welcome interaction and collaboration!*

Presentation Content

1
General & Undocu-related Considerations

2
Deadlines, Letters of Rec., Testing, Fee waivers, Writing Sample
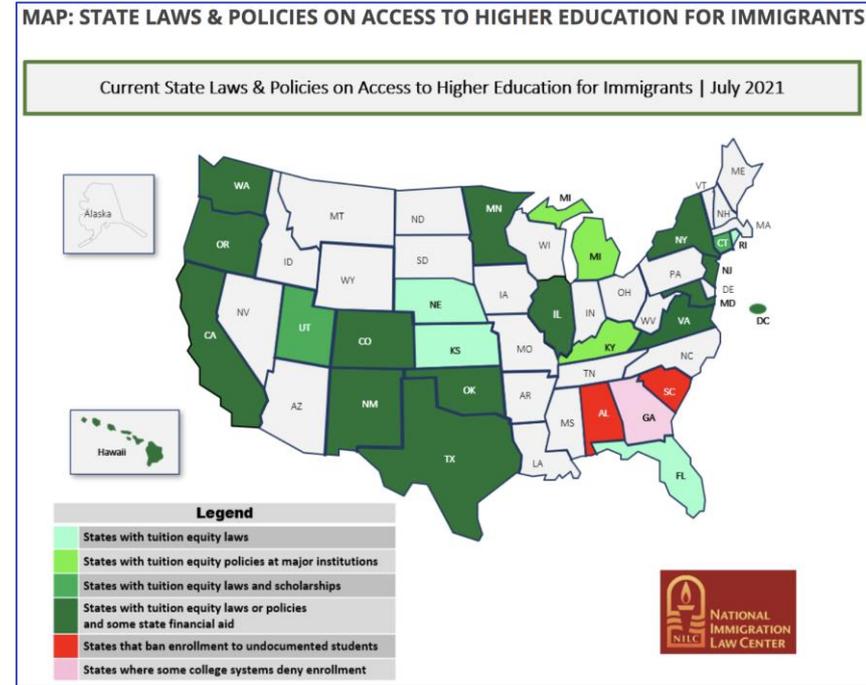
3
Statement of Purpose vs Personal Statement

4
Resources

Undocumented-related Considerations

- State laws affect graduate school admission
  - National Immigration Law Center
    - Map: State Laws & Policies on Access to Higher Education for Immigrants
    - Table: Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants
  - uLEAD: University Leaders for Educational Access and Diversity
    - uLEADNet.org
      - Categorized laws of 50 states into Restrictive, Unstipulated, and Inclusive

MAP: STATE LAWS & POLICIES ON ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

Current State Laws & Policies on Access to Higher Education for Immigrants | July 2021

Legend
- States with tuition equity laws
- States with tuition equity policies at major institutions
- States with tuition equity laws and scholarships
- States with tuition equity laws or policies and some state financial aid
- States that ban enrollment to undocumented students
- States where some college systems deny enrollment

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER

US Customs & Border Protection (USCBP) checkpoints

- Interior Checkpoints and Higher Ed Institutions along the border
  - USCBP, checkpoints range from 25-100 miles from border
  - There are an estimated 180 checkpoints
  - Living in an area that requires you to pass through a checkpoint poses a higher deportation risk

Figure 4: Map of 100 Mile Border Zone, Courtesy of the ACLU (2017)[19]

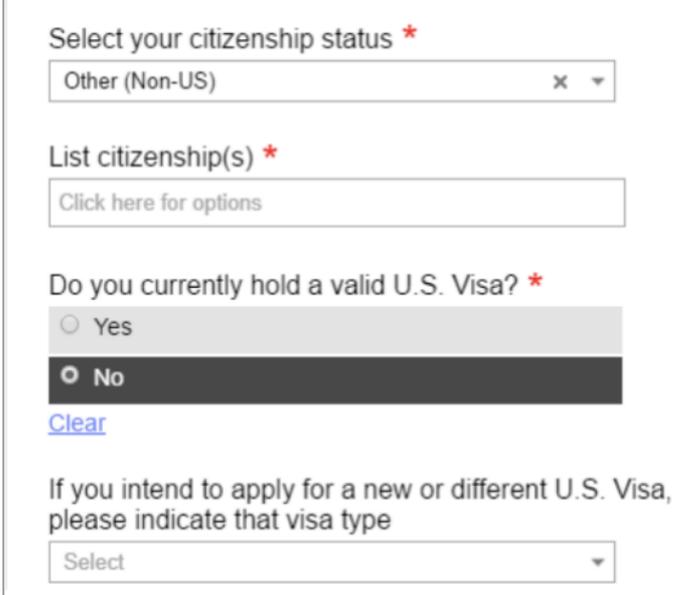# Testing Requirements: GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.

- Government issued identification for registering and taking the test
  - US driver's license or passport
  - Original document
  - Valid
  - Bear your full name
  - Includes recent photograph
  - Includes your signature
- ETS Office of Testing Integrity (OTI)
  - Accommodation, waiver or workaround if you do not meet identification requirements
  - Email: TSReturns@ets.org

You will be admitted to the MCAT® exam on testing day only if your identity document meets the necessary requirements. To ensure that it does, please complete the checklist below.

Identification Requirements	Yes	No
The names on your ID match the first and last names on your MCAT exam registration EXACTLY. (Middle names or initials are not required on the MCAT registration, even if they appear on your ID.) → If they don't match exactly, you must update your name through the MCAT Registration System system by the BRONZE ZONE deadline associated with your test date. → If your ID has your initials in place of your first and/or last name, you must contact AAMC Services (202-828-0600) for instructions before the SILVER ZONE deadline associated with your test date.	☐	☐
The ID was issued by a government agency.	☐	☐
The ID's expiration date is printed on the ID and is not extended by a sticker or similar mechanism.	☐	☐
The ID will not expire before your exam date.	☐	☐
The ID is not a temporary ID. → Paper IDs or ID application receipts of any quality are not valid forms of identification.	☐	☐
The ID contains a photo that can be used to positively identify you.	☐	☐
The ID includes your signature, which you will be asked to duplicate on test day.	☐	☐
The ID is whole with no evidence of tampering (clipped corners, holes, etc.).	☐	☐
The ID is in English.	☐	☐

If you answered "no" to any of the requirements, please obtain an ID that fulfills all the requirements or adjust your registration details.

If you answered "yes" to ALL these requirements, CONGRATULATIONS! You are ready for exam day!

If you have any questions about test day identification requirements, please refer to MCAT® Essentials or contact AAMC Services at 202-828-0600 or mcat@aamc.org.

Disclosing Status on a Graduate Application

- No federal law requires proof of citizenship when applying
- Personal decision to disclose status
  - Typically unavoidable in an application
  - Used for Financial Aid and to gauge diversity of the matriculating student population
  - Provide students with resources
- Information safeguarded by FERPA
  - Except for court orders
  - Legitimate educational interests
  - Directory information

Select your citizenship status *

Other (Non-US)   × ▾

List citizenship(s) *

Click here for options

Do you currently hold a valid U.S. Visa? *

○ Yes

◉ No

Clear

If you intend to apply for a new or different U.S. Visa, please indicate that visa type

Select   ▾

Basic Considerations | Reasons to Pursue

- Why? What? Where?

- What to expect?

- Degree?

- Benefits

- Costs

- More knowledge about a subject/major

- Research interests

- Your proposed career may require it

- Become a better candidate in the job market

Different Degrees

- Master's: MA, MS, MBA, MPA, MSW, MFT, etc.
- Doctorate: Ph.D.
- Professional: JD, MD, DDS, OD

Masters Degree	Ph.D.
2-3 years to complete	5-7 years to complete
Specialized Training	Fellowships and Assistantships
Career Oriented	Reserch Oriented
Less time and money	Creating Knowledge

Application Components

- Admissions Test (*mostly waived in 2021*)

- Unofficial Transcripts / GPA

- Personal Statement

- Statement of Purpose

- Letters of Recommendation

- CV / Resume

GET YOUR GAME ON:
PREPPING FOR YOUR GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATION

Timeline

- Summer:
  - Narrow down research interests
  - Search for programs
  - Prepare for testing
- Fall:
  - Work on application
  - Letters of rec.
  - Personal statement / SOP
  - Writing sample
  - Funding application
- Winter:
  - Maintain good grades
- Spring:
  - Admission response
  - Interview at campuses

Detailed Timeline

Example of Grad School Application Timeline				
	Sophomore	**Junior**	**Summer**	**Senior**
Quarter	Fall Winter Spring	Fall Winter Spring		Fall Winter Spring
Academics	-Choose major -Academic enrichment programs -Honors opportunities. -Volunteer or intern -Undergraduate Research Opportunities	-Be proactive and engage in major. -Apply to summer research/internship opportunities. -Attend California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education	- - - -	-Attend scholarly lectures and discussion - Instructor Assistant (e.g., Psyc 191) - Attend/Revisit California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education
Research	-Take note of topics you find interesting based on reading from courses.	-Gain research experience (e.g., labs, Pathways to Research Program)	-Summer Research Program or Internship	-Senior thesis, internship, field study.
Graduate School	-Explore career interests. -MS/MA vs. Ph.D. - -	-Build relationships with faculty and graduate mentors for future letters of recommendations.	-GRE prep -Search for Grad school programs	-Apply to Grad school OR -Plan for the year or two before Grad School

Grad School Wishlist

University Name	School Name	Program Name	Degree	Faculty Name	Faculty Contact	App. Requirements	Deadline
NYU	Steinhardt School of Culture, Ed, & Human Dev.	Psych & Social Intervention	Ph.D.	C. Suarez-Orozco Niobe Way (Psy. Dev)	cso2@nyu.edu	Fee Waiver	Dec. 15th
UC Santa Cruz	Psychology	Developmental Psychology	Ph.D.	Margarita Azmitia Catherine Cooper	azmitia@ucsc.edu	Personal History Statement, GRE: Fee Waiver	Dec. 15th
Stanford	School of education	PSE: child & adolescent dev.	PhD	-Amado Padilla -Teresa LaFromboise	apadilla@suse.stanford.edu	GRE: 4704 Fee Waiver	Dec 16th
Brown Uni.	Education Department	Urban Education Policy	MA	1. Cynthia Garcia 2. Deborah Rivas-Drake 3. Rosa Cho	1.Cynthia_garcia_coll@brown.edu 2.Deborah_rivas_drake@brown.edu 3.rosa_minhyo_cho@brown.edu	GRE: 3090 Fee Waiver	Jan 2nd
Harvard	Graduate School of Education	Human Development & Psychology	MA	Vivian Louie Hiro Yoshikaw	vivian_louie@gse.harvard.edu	GRE: 3428	Jan 5th

Personal Statement / Statement of Purpose

Personal Statement	Statement of Purpose
- For financial aid and cohort considerations - Personal trajectory / journey to career path - Represents your skills and character - Overcoming adversity and maintaining academic excellence - How?	- For research interests/cohort considerations - What do you want to do in grad school? - How will you apply your skills to achieve goal? - Highlight aspects of school / department that guide your interest - List faculty you wish to work with

Testing & Exams

- Graduate Examination Record (GRE)
  - Subject tests?
- LSAT (law)
- GMAT (business)
- MCAT (medical school)
- PCAT (pharmacology)
- OAT (optometry)
- Request fee waivers from Graduate Division, Fin. Aid Office

1. Pick Up a book from the library, peer, online, etc., and read a few pages a day
2. Don't try to wing-it!
3. Create a study plan
4. Become acquainted with the examination style
5. **Bring your Passport!**

The little box at the end of the application...

- **Question:** *"Is there anything not included in the application that you would like to share with the graduate committee?"*
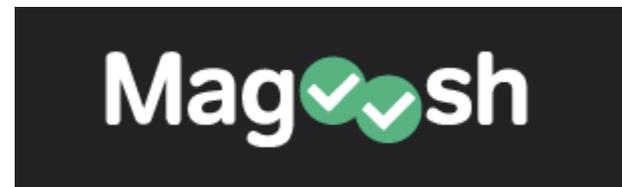
Comment

[ ]

Post Comment

- Make use of this to genuinely describe:
  - *Your fear of standardized testing*
  - *The underlying reason why there is a "W" or failing grade on your transcript*
  - *A family hardship that affected a gap in your education*
  - **And how these criteria are not indicative of your ability to engage in research material**

Grad Test prep resource!

- Magoosh online prep-course for LSAT, MCAT, GRE

- Some Universities offer this resource **free** to students--look into this as a possibility at your campus!
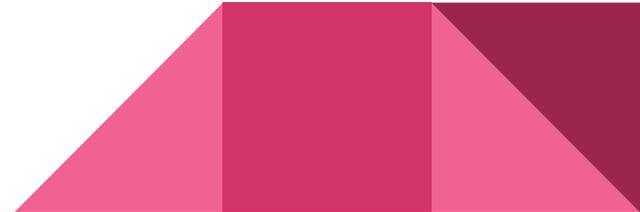

https://magoosh.com/

Writing Sample

- Depending on your discipline, the sample may be different
    - Art Portfolio
    - Film--link online
    - Essay
- Work on the sample ahead of time
    - Ideally, use a sample from a faculty advisor that is recommending you and has reviewed your work

- Share your writing sample with different readers
    - Faculty
    - Peer advisor
    - Mentor
- Save each copy separately and then decide what changes to make

CV / Résumé

- Curriculum Vitae
  - Concise summary of educational background and achievements
    - Personal contact information
    - Educational degrees
    - Awards / publications
    - Teaching and research interests and experiences
    - Skills
    - Professional memberships
  - Highlight experiences in relation to SOP

Letters of Recommendation

- Request **strong well-written** letters of rec.
  - Pillar of the application, ask ahead of time
  - Provides information that is not found elsewhere in the application
    - Don't be repetitive
    - Some aspects have to be mentioned by the recommender
  - Waive the right to read the letter
    - Shows confidence
    - Professors may be more comfortable to recommend you
  - From: Professor's, Employer, Internship/volunteer supervisor

Letters of Rec

- Advise Professor ahead of time or at the beginning of a course
- Attend office hours and hold conversations related to your research interest
- Never accept a Letter from a Professor who asks you to write it
  - Provide the recommender with:
    - SOP
    - Résumé / CV
    - Writing sample
    - Transcripts
    - *(See sample in materials attached to this prez)

Faculty advisor

- Professor/Mentor that will revise all material to be submitted

- Meet regularly and have materials ready to be revised

- Meet professor during office hours or request alternative time

- Be responsible for setting expectations and deadlines

Deadlines

- Submit application materials ahead of time

- Letters may be provided by professors after application has closed

  - It is your responsibility to ensure the recommender has provided your letter

  - Email recommender with gratitude

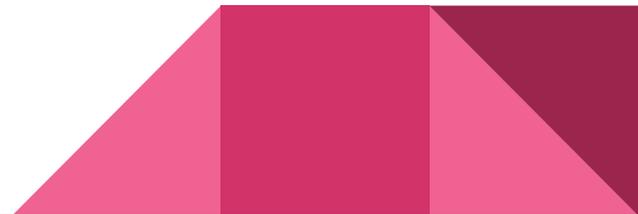 - Then email as a follow up to ensure letter submission

Finding the right Program

- Look into the Faculty and their Research interests

- 2-3 faculty members you may work with

- Ask if they will be on

  - Sabbatical, retiring, conducting research elsewhere

- Does the Program offer a MA if you don't finish the PhD?

- Reach-out to other graduate students at the dept. and read their work

Contacting the Department

- Inquire what funding options are available particular to your circumstances

  - TA ships, fellowships, GSR?

- Sometimes the department flies you out to get a feel of what they offer

- Ask for application fee waivers

Law School Tips

- LSAT—five 35-min test sections (Analytical Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, the unscored variable section, Writing Sample)
- Law School Admission Council--FAQ's: https://www.lsac.org/lsat/frequently-asked-questions-about-lsat
- Why do you want to pursue law school?
- What do you want to achieve after? What difference do you want to make?
- Make sure to address all parts of the prompt
- Revise your statements to fit the questions
- Study for the LSAT
  - Free LSAT prep on Khan Academy

LSAT Sections

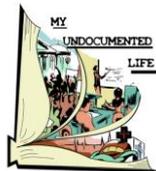|	
Logical Reasoning ("Arguments")	• 2 sections • 24–26 multiple-choice questions per section • 35 minutes per section • Tests ability to determine main points of arguments, apply logic to abstract concepts, find relevant information within a text, and analyze and evaluate arguments
Analytical Reasoning ("Logic Games")	• 1 section • 4 logic games with 4–7 multiple-choice questions each • 35 minutes • Tests ability to understand effects of rules on decisions and outcomes, determine relationships between concepts, analyze situations and draw conclusions based on set guidelines, and apply logic to ambiguous or complex situations
Reading Comprehension	• 1 section • ~27 questions multiple-choice questions • 35 minutes • 4 passages: 3 passages with one authors and 1 combination of passages from 2 different sources discussing the same topic • Tests ability to draw inferences based on text, determine main ideas of passages, find relevant information within a text, understand a dense, scholarly text
Variable Section	• 1 unscored experimental section • 35 minutes • Can by Arguments, Games, or Reading Comprehension
Writing Sample	• 1 unscored section • 35 minutes • Tests ability to form an argument based on given facts, support an argument, use written English to express an idea • Learn more about how law schools use the LSAT Writing Sample

Financial Aid Options

- [MALDEF Graduate Scholarship & Fellowship List](#)

- [Internal Fellowship: UCLA AB540 Grad Students](#)

- [External Fellowship: Paul D. Soros Fellowship for New Americans](#)

Undocumented Student Resources

- http://mydocumentedlife.org/

- http://www.phdreamers.org/

- dream.csac.ca.gov

- immigrantsrising.org

LIST OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Internships & other Programs

- IHS: Institute for Humane Studies Fee Waiver $300
  - https://theihs.org/funding-career-resources/funding-for-graduate-students/
- IRT: Institute for Recruitment of Teachers in Boston
  - https://www.andover.edu/about/outreach/irt
- PIKSI: Philosophy inclusive Key Summer Institute
  - https://www.piksi.org/programs/boston/

- Flight, Stipend, Room and board, mentoring, application waivers

Santa Clara Law Digital Commons

- **Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumentes Students**
- Focus on law, testing requirements, and stat-to-state nuances, amongst other items
- https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School_-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Stude-1.pdf

Navigating Graduate School: Resource Guide for Undocumented Students

Sheila Cook
SCU Law Class of 2018, scook@scu.edu

Iva Gaylord
SCU Law Class of 2018, igaylord@scu.edu

Lastly

- No one single route is the only correct one

- Make a name for yourself get the dept. to know you