How To Get into Grad School

A Super Anecdotal/Personal Guide

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The Trinity

LETTERS OF REC

GPA / COURSES

GRE SCORES
GPA / COURSES

• Schools have different grading standards... they know!
  – But there is opportunity to explain

• Grad classes are only impressive if you excel
  – Can help you get out of requirements

• This part is mainly done
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• Generally 3 letters
  – So need diverse research experience

• Draft outline of what you want mentioned
  – Grades, research, etc.

• Ask early

• Who to ask?...
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Who to ask:

Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you
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Who to ask:

- Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you
- Advisor for Research
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Who to ask:

Professor you have rapport with and succeed in class

Advisor for Research

Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you
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Who to ask:

- Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you
- Advisor for Research
- Professor you have rapport with and succeed in class
- Professor you got an A from
Who to ask:

- Prestigious Professor you got an OK grade from
- Professor you have rapport with and succeed in class
- Advisor for Research
- Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you

PROFESSOR YOU GOT AN A FROM
LETTERS OF REC

Who to ask:

- Professor that can say wonderful things about someone else applying to the same school and average things about you
- Prestigious Professor you got an OK grade from
- Professor you have rapport with and succeed in class
- Advisor for Research
- Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you

PROFESSOR YOU GOT AN A FROM

7/20/17

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Who to ask:

- Someone not in physics
- Professor that can say wonderful things about someone else applying to the same school and average things about you
- Prestigious Professor you got an OK grade from
- Professor you have rapport with and succeed in class
- Advisor for Research
- Professors you researched with, took classes with, from prestigious institution, and like you

PROFESSOR YOU GOT AN A FROM

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• Basically ask someone who:
  – Likes you *(the best)*
  – Does good physics
  – Does physics you want to do
GRE SCORES

• Physics GRE
  – Theory ➔ > 900

• Regular GRE
  – Get within 2 points of perfect on math to not raise eyebrows
  – Demonstrate baseline literacy
Other Things

• Essays (2 pages)
  – Why you want to go to grad school (1.5 page)
  – Why you want to go HERE (last paragraph)

• Personal Statements
  – If you want to go to California, care about humans

• Presentation List
  – List of presentations, poster, you’ve done

• Other schools
  – Make this school the apple of your eye
Questions?

• You can be personal
“Where did you apply?”

• Harvard
• MIT
• Berkeley
• Stanford
• Princeton
• UMD
• U Chicago

• NYU
• UC Irvine
• UMich
• Johns Hopkins
“Where did you get in?”

• Harvard
• MIT
• Berkeley
• Stanford
• Princeton
• UMD
• U Chicago

• NYU
• UC Irvine
• UMich
• Johns Hopkins