OYO[1]: Considering Graduate School

Important questions if you're curious about grad school

Is now the time for graduate school?
- List your top reasons for wanting to continue your education
    - For example: career growth, higher earnings, research and teaching opportunities
    - Use the 5 Whys to explore your deeper motivations and goals
- A common mistake is to go to grad school as a fallback if you don't have a job
    - Understand the financial investment, including opportunity costs (i.e., income)
    - Feel free to explore jobs and grad programs in parallel, comparing costs and benefits
- Many CS professionals recommend getting your grad degree immediately after undergrad

What do you want to study?
- Explore options by talking to some of your favorite faculty about fields of interest
- Research online and network to learn about Master's vs. Doctoral programs
- Envision yourself in 5-10 years to anticipate how different areas of focus could help you reach long-term goals

How do you decide where to apply?
- Identify prospective programs to add to your list using online resources
- Thoroughly research the school, department, program and faculty (don't forget to inquire about financial aid)
- Consider opportunities to connect directly with representatives from each program
- Prioritize your list and remember to apply to several options (6-10 recommended)

How does the application process work?
- Know the timeline for submission of materials and try to get everything in early (pg. 14-15)
- Prepare your letters of recommendation and write your personal statement (pg. 18-19)
- Take the GRE or other required assessments and have scores sent directly to schools

What are the best resources to learn more?

CIC Applying to Graduate School Tips, Timeline, and Tools of the Trade

CRA-W Graduate School Information Guide

CSRankings: Computer Science Rankings

CICS Graduate Admissions and the Bay State Programs

Grad School Comparison Worksheet

GradSchools.com

Check out our Careers in Data Science Info Sheet to learn more!

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[1] On-your-own "OYO" resources help you begin to find answers to your questions now.