TOP 10

Tips for Applying for a Graduate Degree in Chemistry

Considering a graduate degree in chemistry?

There are a number of factors to assess before and during the application process. Follow these ten tips to successfully plan for and get accepted to pursue a graduate degree in chemistry that positions you for success on your career path.

1

Choose schools carefully.

Understand the degree you need for your desired career, then match that with schools offering programs in a location you will enjoy living in.

2

Plan the timeline.

Be aware of and complete necessary tests early, e.g., GRE, TOEFL. Make sure you allow sufficient time to construct essays, research statements, and cover letters.

3

Know your digits.

Your GPA, GRE scores (general and, in some cases, chemistry), and TOEFL scores for international applicants may impact your likelihood of being accepted to a specific school. Check with the school for expectations.

6

Choose recommendations carefully.

Select the professors who write recommendation letters based on your grade in their course, your engagement with the professor, and their awareness of your career plans or extracurricular activities.

5

Be aware of and cover any fees.

Some graduate programs require application fees, and other programs cover all fees. Check for each school.

4

Be complete and follow guidelines.

Double check to make sure you include all requested parts of the application, and follow the submission protocol outlined for each school.

7

Show how you are different.

If you have completed a unique summer research project, or gained experience or skills in another setting, do include these differentiators to stand out.

8

Proofread.

Read over your full application package multiple times and ask others to review. Here, check both basics including grammar and spelling and the big picture, such as whether the application is compelling.

9

Meet or beat all deadlines.

Complete your application and supply all supporting documentation early. Don't try to upload items on the last due date to avoid any technical glitches.

10

Manage your stress.

Keep your cool when preparing, submitting, and waiting on the results from graduate school applications.

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