Road To PhD

Addresses various topics on: applying to graduate schools, test scores, masters thesis/non-thesis, dissertation writing, advisor selection, funding, grad school vs industry, etc.

- [Bridge to the Doctorate: Where to Apply for 2015](#)
  With out a doubt, I attribute a critical part of my success as a doctoral student to Dr. Karen Singmaster and the San Jose State University Louis Stokes of Minority Participation (SJSU LSAMP) program. The program exposed me and many others to essential information and resources that I use consistently in my current studies. A benefit of being an LSAMP student at any university is the ability to apply to the National Science Foundation LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate. I was afforded the opportunity to attend and [Read More +](#)

- [Conducting A Literature Search: Becoming Familiar With Your Research Area](#)
  A common question for many people who first enter the realm of research is, "How do I initiate the journey of becoming an expert in a particular area?" My answer to this is: By spending a lot of time reading! Since time is precious, and I wholeheartedly believe in efficiency, I want to provide you all with some tips that I have learned along the way that can assist you with streamlining the process of conducting a literature search, as this is one of the primary [Read More +](#)

- [March Madness: Deciphering Admission Letters & Selecting The Right Graduate School](#)
  March is here and you are anxiously awaiting notification letters about graduate school admission. Have no fear, they are surely on the way! This month's

blog will provide you with information on how to prioritize and select the graduate school that is best suited for your needs. The decision making process outlined in the current blog, in combination with the previous content covered in this blog-series, will ultimately increase the probability of you successfully earning your Ph.D. Previously, we discussed the importance of applying for funding [Read More +](#)

- [The Blue Chip Graduate Student: Making The Most Of Your Campus Visitation](#)

You applied to your top 10 graduate schools and as you might have experienced already, waiting for admission letters can be just as nerve-racking, if not more, than the application process itself. February is an awesome month. Not only does the U.S. take the time to learn about Black History and how Black people have impacted the world, but it is also the month universities send out campus visitation letters to their most sought-after students. When you receive an invite to visit a university's campus, you officially become [Read More +](#)

- [Publishing: Targeting The Right Conferences And Journals](#)

Happy New Year! As we usher in the New Year, it's customary to set new goals and craft new resolutions. This year, I'm aiming to complete at least two publications by the end of 2015. However, sorting through the mass of potential journals and conferences and deciding where to submit, proves to be a daunting task. In an attempt to lessen the decision-making burden, I've outlined a few tips I've designed to help identify the right journals and conferences for you. Click here to read the [Read More +](#)

- [Selecting Your Top 10 Graduate Schools: Apply And Conquer](#)

The end of the semester is fast approaching and a break from the rigors of school is near. However, if you are applying for graduate school, the break will be short-lived due to the graduate school application process. In

this blog, we provide information for creating a personalized Top 10 Graduate School list. The goals of the list is simple: to be well-rounded, versatile, and most importantly personalized. To ensure these goals are met, the list will contain institutions that fit into the following three categories: Dream [Read More +](#)

- ['Tis The Season To Apply For Funding](#)

Around this time of year, students are searching for funding sources for graduate schools. While graduate school applications usually fall between December and January, graduate fellowship application deadlines usually run between November and January. In a previous blog, Road To PhD: Selecting a Graduate School [1], we composed a list for "selecting the BEST graduate school for YOU" which ranked funding as the number one factor in deciding which school to attend. Funding is the main priority because of the countless opportunities it opens up for [Read More +](#)

- [Selecting a Graduate School](#)

Watch the video above to see an unscripted discussion between my mentee Chelsea and me. During the discussion, I give Chelsea some important factors she should take into consideration when selecting a graduate school. Your applications are in, meaning you have completed the hard part! You have: taken the GRE, written your personal statements, paid expensive application fees, and most importantly, fought through senioritis and completed your last semester of your undergraduate career (or almost finished). You are now going through arguably, the two most [Read More +](#)

- [How to Create Google Scholar Alerts to Stay Up-to-Date](#)

I'm finishing up my 4th year as a PhD Student in Archaeology and I can say one of my biggest challenges has been keeping up with the most cutting-edge research

in my field. In archaeology, as is the case with most other disciplines, scholars are constantly publishing on the newest findings, methods of data collection and theoretical perspectives. In past years I would find myself browsing through archaeology journals in the library and doing periodic online searches for the newest articles. Luckily I recently discovered [Read More +](#)

- [Dissertation Advice](#)

I sit, staring at my two computer screens, 32 pages into my dissertation, and think, "am I really making progress, or is this all just pretend?". The answer to that question is, I really don't know. My Advisor is the only person who can weigh-in on my progress and it actually be meaningful. What I do know is I have a ton of graphs and extra results to add. I also have four paper topics in the queue that all need: coding, simulations run, and [Read More +](#)