Preparing for Grad School

PRISM Winter 2023 Workshop #5

March 15, 2023

Keerat Kaur Guliani, MScAC UofT

Are you ready?

Make sure you know why you want to go to grad school.

Three Pass Approach

- Choose the right programs

- Prepare your application

- Choose the right program

Part 1: Choosing the right programs

Most frequently asked questions:

1. How do I know what field to apply in?

2. PhD or Master's?

3. How do I know which program to apply in? There are so many? Categorise by priority and admissibility

4. I want to apply to <xyz> but I don't know if I'll get in?

Things you might want to find out about programs beforehand!

App close		Feasibility	Preference	Result	Program	Institute	Engg/CS Scho	QS World Rank	Duration	Link
02/12/2021 10:20					Master of Science in Applied Computing (MSc	UToronto		25	16 months	https://www.sgs.u
Jan 15th 2022			see profs and decide which one		MMath CM	UWaterloo	38 (23 in CS)	149	12 months	https://uwaterloo.

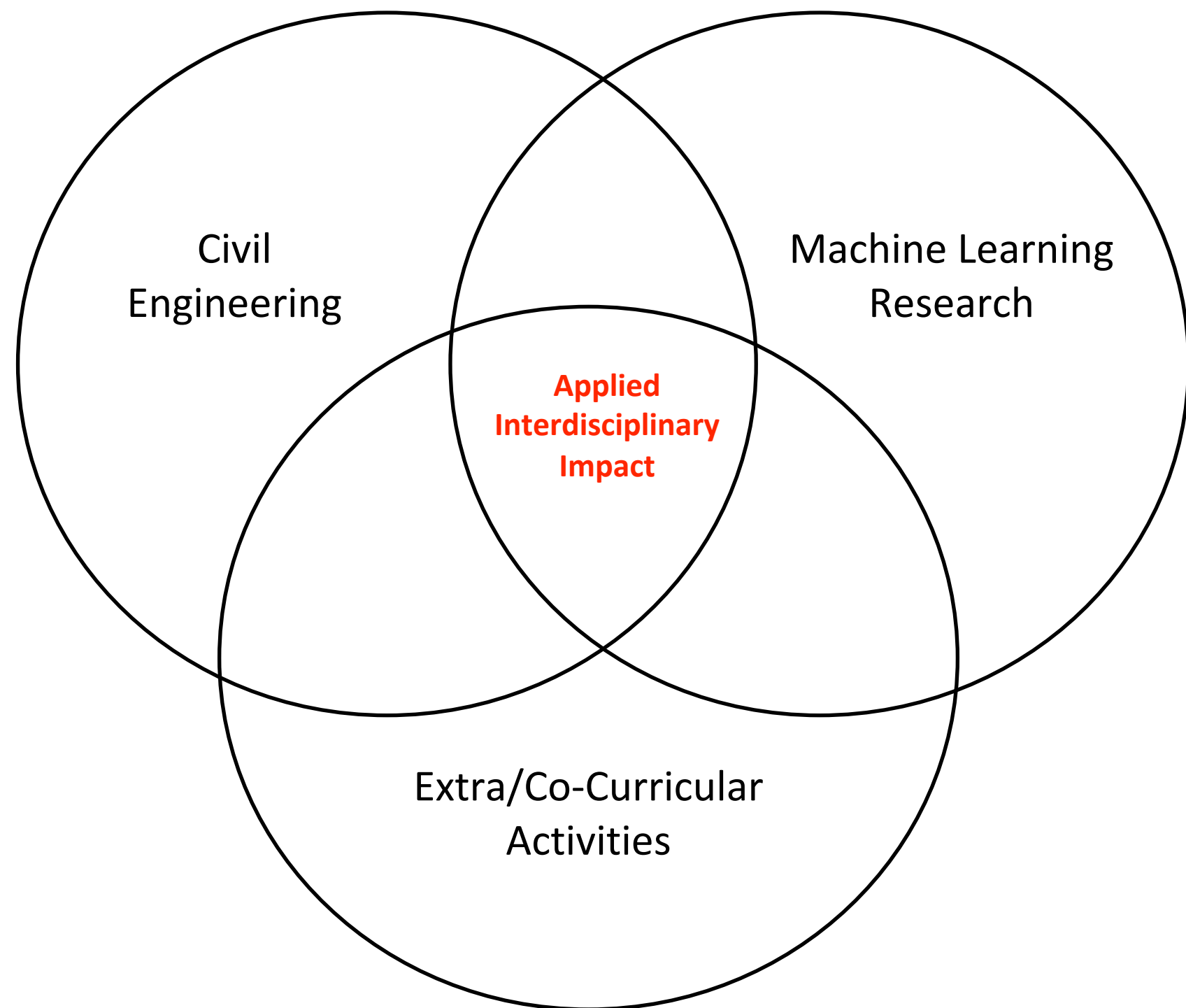		K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
	App open	Results ETA	Application Fee	# Rec Letters	Country	GRE req.	TOEFL/IELTS	Thesis	Comments	Misc
	utoronto.ca/programs/applied-computing/			3	Canada	Yes	Yes, give to avoi	No	Program good enough to cover up for lack of thesis but check labs.	Program info ses
	.ca/computational-mathematics/			3		Yes	Exempted			

Part 2: The Application

The Typical Process...

1. Statement of Purpose

2. References

3. Resume

4. Research Proposal (PhD only, not required everywhere)

5. Test Scores: GRE/TOEFL/IELTS

6. Miscellaneous: diversity-related questions, interview, etc.

Part 2: The Application

SOP - How do I build my story?

- Why are you interested in this field? Supplement with relevant experience.
- Why do you want to go to this program? Expectations?
- Why is this school right for you?
- What are you right for this school?
- Professors/Organisations you want to be affiliated with.

SOP should reflect depth of thought and clarity of choice!

Part 2: The Application

References

- Prepare your referees well in advance!

- Do not assume that a professor will write you a letter! Ask them if they're comfortable/willing to recommend you.

- Keep handy a document of important information (experience with them, grades in their course, etc.) about you that the professor can refer to while writing the letter.

- Send regular reminders.

For this part of the application, you are dependent on someone who is expected to be VERY BUSY - exercise caution and punctuality!

Part 3: Choose the Right Program

This time when you're in.

1. Priority

2. Finance

3. Geography

4. Reputation

5. Prior (someone else's) Experience

Understand all the tradeoffs involved in these choices!

Recommended References

- https://martiansideofthemoon.github.io/2018/05/29/grad-resources.html

- https://github.com/shaily99/advice

- https://github.com/jbhuang0604/awesome-tips

- https://www.amazon.ca/Field-Guide-Grad-School-Uncovering-ebook/dp/B0859PDXVX

Questions?