

GRADUATE SCHOOL AND LIFE LONG LEARNING:

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW?

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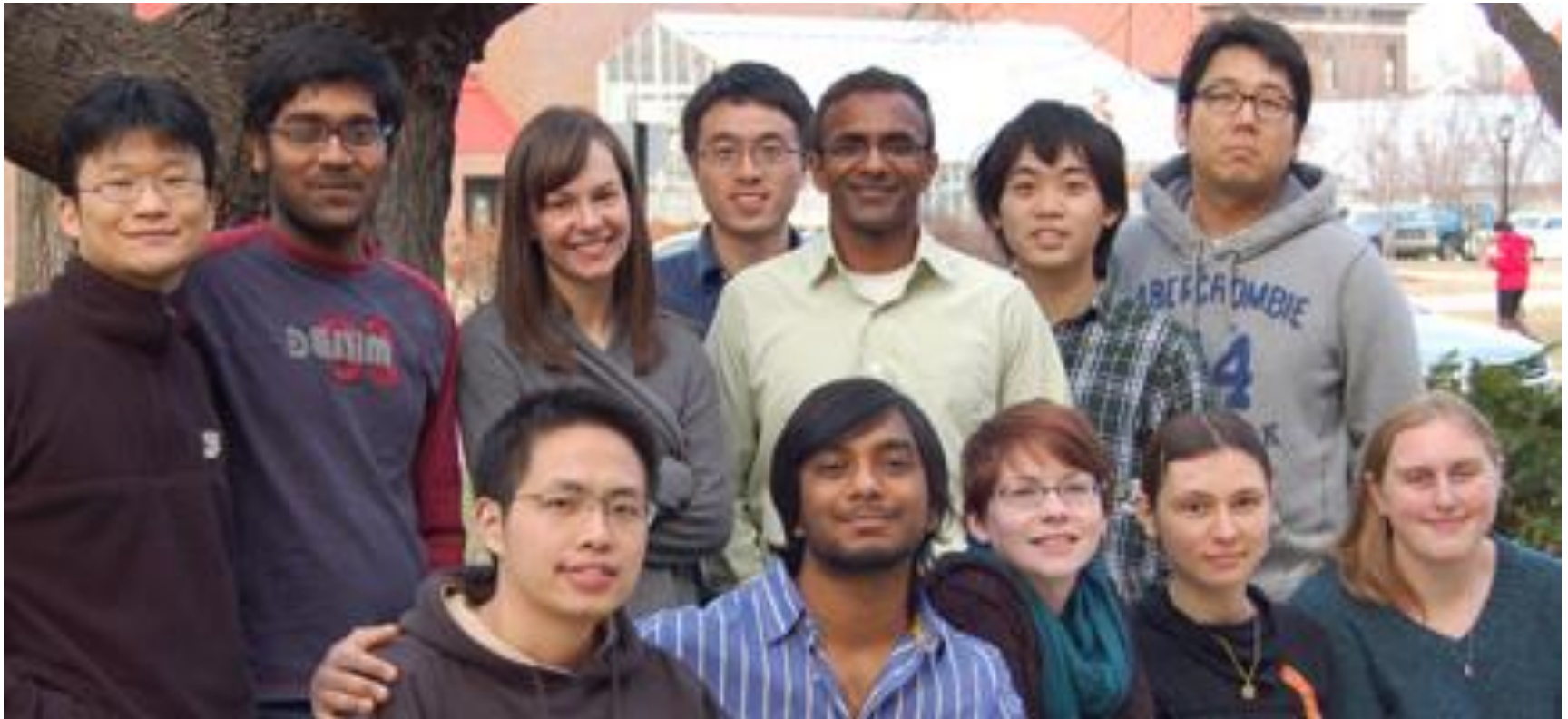
Presented by Vincent Bralts

WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL?

AND WHY SHOULD I BE INTERESTED?

- **Not the same as undergrad “learn the rest of the story”**
 - Classes vs. research
 - Breadth vs. depth
 - Paying vs. paid
- **A chance to pursue ideas that excite you**
 - Learn to work through problems, recover from failures
 - Become an expert (and maybe *the* expert)
- **A job**
 - A professional relationship
 - Your responsibility (self-motivation)
- **An “individual team sport”**
- **An investment**
 - Time → opportunities and income
 - An opportunity incubator
 - Humbling...and rewarding

WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PROFESSOR AND HIS RESEARCH TEAM



WHEN SHOULD I PURSUE GRADUATE SCHOOL?

AND WHEN DO I NEED TO APPLY?

- **When (in my life) should I pursue graduate school?**
 - 3 reasons to do now rather than later:
 - Better Return On Investment
 - It's less complicated
 - Momentum
- **When do I need to apply?**
 - January 1 application deadline is typical
 - Give recommenders lead time

WORK ON REAL WORLD PROBLEMS IN MAHA LAB



WHO IS GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Only the smartest?

- True and False – Grades, GRE matter, but so do other qualities.

2. People who live for school?

- False – But if you hate school...

3. Future professors?

- True and False – A graduate degree can lead to a career in any sector: industry, academia, government, etc.

4. Those who aren't considering other options?

- False – Graduate school is a good option to keep open, and one you need to plan ahead for.

5. Not everyone?

- True – It *isn't* for everyone, but it *is* for many different kinds of people.

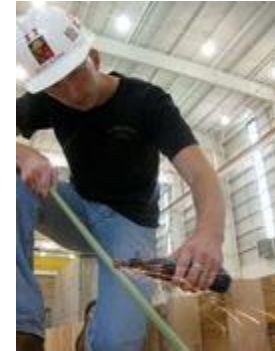
BUILDING A BIOREACTOR



HOW TO PREPARE

Things to Consider as preparation:

CoE Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURF)



<https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/Research/SURF/Programs/Campus>

Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship

<http://discoverypark.itap.purdue.edu/learningcenter/duri/>



HOW DO I APPLY FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL?

- **What's in the application?**

- Application form
- Resume
- Statement of purpose
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- GRE scores

- **Apply...**

- Early
- To more than one program
- Both formally and informally
 - Talk to faculty and their grad students

Who I am - a little background about yourself that can connect to your interest in graduate school

Why I am interested in (and ready for) graduate study - What makes you want to pursue graduate study, and what experiences/personal qualities prepare you (research, internship, etc.)

What I am interested in - A bit about the research topics that inspire or interest you. You may want to mention the research of specific faculty members.

Where I am heading - Brief discussion of your career interests, what you would like to do with your degree

HOW DOES ADMISSION WORK?

(IN PURDUE ABE)

OUR PROCESS

- **You apply**
 - Review by graduate committee (overall qualifications)
- **“Approved” pool**
 - You talk with potential advisors
 - Review by individual faculty members
- **Admission = Qualifications + Research Group Opening + (usu.) Funding**

OTHER WAYS IT CAN WORK

- Separate admission, advisor, and funding decisions

WHERE SHOULD I APPLY?

A COMPLETELY UNBIASED PERSPECTIVE

Why pursue graduate school at Purdue ABE?

- Top ranked
- Continuity
 - You know faculty here already (research, advising style)
 - You have other connections here
- You were right the first time you chose Purdue

But remember:

- The process takes time and proactivity
- Admission isn't guaranteed – even for great students

Life Long Learning

- ✓ - *the "ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated" pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. Therefore, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development, but also self-sustainability, as well as competitiveness and employability.*

“Life is a journey not a destination”

Other Options for Life Long Learning

- ✓ Take the FE exam
- ✓ Get a Job with a PE
- ✓ Take PE licensure exam
- ✓ Earn an MBA
- ✓ Take Specialize Courses
- ✓ Instant Learning
- ✓ IT Badges

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FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING (FE)

AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/Academics/FE_FS_Exams

- ✓ How to Register and Prepare
- ✓ Review Sessions Schedule
- ✓ Taking the Exam

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IT BADGES

A NEW PATH TO BETTER PAY ?

- Skills-based mini-certs are gaining traction as a worthwhile way to round out your résumé

<http://www.infoworld.com/article/3081309/certifications/it-badges-a-new-path-to-better-pay.html>

If you're an IT pro looking for a new gig, that old line about not needing stinking badges may soon no longer apply, thanks to a relatively new credentialing system finding favor with some large companies and a growing number of job applicants.

Take Damian O'Farrill's experience. His interview with Autodesk was going well until a member of the panel wondered if he could make the transition from his relatively relaxed software job at a nonprofit to the hectic and competitive atmosphere of a major tech company. With the position on the line, O'Farrill pointed to a half-dozen skills badges he earned through [Salesforce.com's Trailhead program](https://www.salesforce.com/trailhead).

QUESTIONS?

So remember –

“Life long education is part of the journey not only the destination”

Gail Biberstine ABE Graduate Program Administrator
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