

Weighted Decisional Analysis (Multi-Criteria) Scale Key For Grad School

- Given the best guess score with all information available at the present time
- Rank: 1 (worst outcome) to 3 (best outcome)

Equations:

- Weighted Score Per Variable = (Score/Maximum Possible Score) x Variable Weight
 - Total Weighted Score = All Previously Calculated Variable Scores
- Convert Total Weighted Score from decimal format to % (higher percentages denote greater chances for overall success considering all factors defined within each variable)

Variable 1: Mentor(s):

Instructions: Take mean if multiple mentors for the program; for gender: 1=male, 3=female; RMP scores (0 to 2: assign 1, 3 to 3.5: assign 2, 4 to 5: assign 3)

weight: 35% (possible: 93)

research interest alignment:

methods interest alignment:

personality alignment:

availability/response time:

ego (confidence/competence factor):

intimidating-ness/approachability:

gender (female preferred):

badassery:

age:

h-index:

academic community reputation:

academic family tree:

prestige level compared to academic parity in the same department:

colleagues/connections/co-authors:

other mentorship opportunities if issues arise:

support/endorsement for mentees:

alma mater(s):

CV accolades/positions held:

RateMyProfessor score:

graduate student opinions:

of former mentees:

typical mentor-mentee ratio:

graduation timeline of former mentees:

success of former mentees:

funding track record:

project/interest diversity:

shared values:

difficulty/rigor level fit:

degree of oversight (micromanagement→full autonomy):

networking/web presence:

perceived job stability/tenure status within current school/lab:

Variable 2: Program/Degree:

Instructions: for Carnegie Classification, R1: 3, Transitioning Up: 2, R2: 3; terminal program: no=1, yes=2; transfer credit opportunity: yes=2, no=1

weight: 25% (possible: 79)

program-specific public perception/elitism:
collaboration/competition departmental drama atmosphere:
Carnegie Classification:
terminal program status (MS/PhD):
program philosophy/structure:
degree type/name:
dean public perception:
availability of specialized coursework of interest:
transfer credit opportunity:
course sizes (instructor-student ratio):
overall curriculum:
teaching opportunities:
interdisciplinary opportunities within the university:
interdisciplinary/resource opportunities outside the university:
rigor fit:
neuroimaging facilities/research method availability:
library resources:
graduate base stipend:
assistantship/fellowship/external funding opportunities:
insurance offered & quality:
diversity of program affiliates:
potential to be a stand-out student:
opportunities for networking conferences/presentations:
field-specific seminar/event offerings on-campus:
overall career placement outcomes:
retention rate:
IRB pain in the a\$\$ level:
non-academic departmental events:

Variable 3: School:

weight: 15% (possible: 111)

overall public perception/elitism:
gym/on-campus fitness center:
location:
political alignment:
campus appeal:
size of student body:
athletics:
activities on campus:
cost of living:
safety:
mental health resources:
on-campus food offerings:
proximity to home/family:

weather/climate:
diversity of student body:
accreditation/league affiliation:
parking availability/cost:
activities close to campus:
non-funded potential costs of attendance:
campus offices/support services:
clubs/organizations:
party scene:
religious affiliation:
community vibe:
walkability:
current President's public perception:
alumni network:
perceived trajectory:
buildings/facilities:
clarity of webpages/resources:
social media presence:
perceived work-life balance/well-being of students:
funding for general improvements:
dating outlook:
relocation difficulty:
personal clout/bragging rights:
confidence in my ability to succeed/thrive:

Variable 4: Lab:

Instructions: (for affiliation w/ a greater network, yes=2, no=1)

weight: 20% (possible: 29)

size:
student member personalities:
student member academic motivation:
recognition level:
name:
morale/collaboration:
affiliation with a greater lab network:
website/media presence and appeal:
fun factor:
reputation compared to other university-specific lab parity:

Variable 5: Irrational Intuition:

Instructions: (3=strong desire to attend, 2=shifting feelings, 1=no strong feelings/less desirable)

weight: 5% (possible: 3)

Grand Total % Chance of Success All-Around!: