2/6 Psi Chi General Body Meeting Minutes
Grad School Application Process w/ Your Peers

Tevis: Applied to a total of 5 PhD programs (cognitive and developmental).
Angie: Applied to 5 clinical psychology PhD programs.
Edgar: Applied to 1 I/O masters program at UCF.

How did you start the process of looking at grad schools?
Tevis: I began actively looking for grad schools in August. I started the process by first looking up R1 (research intensive) universities, there was a list of the schools on wikipedia. Next, I researched the schools and checked the websites to see which schools matched my research interests. I created a spreadsheet on excel of the narrowed down universities. To further narrow down the list of potential schools, I then emailed the faculty associated with the labs I was interested in and asked them if they would be accepting applicants for the fall. This helped narrow down schools until I was ultimately left with five schools.
Angie: I'm a bit of an overachiever, so I started looking for grad schools a full year before the applications were due (December 2017). I used the same process as Tevis, in which I created a spreadsheet of accredited clinical programs that had my research interests. I then emailed faculty asking if they were accepting incoming grad students in their lab. I would strongly recommend emailing faculty because it helps with getting your name recognized. It also helps you save money by not applying to schools that are not accepting applicants for your desired lab.
Edgar: For me, it was a bit different because I knew there was a masters program here at UCF, so I didn't apply anywhere else. But I did start the application process several months before the application was due. This included writing my personal statement. When writing your personal statement make sure to personalize it and mention faculty members that you look forward to working with. The personal statement is where you show why their program is right for you; career services can help you edit your personal statement.

How did you prepare for interviews?
Tevis: I completed a mock interview with career services, which really helped ease the nerves and it's a free service that UCF provides.
Angie: I didn't really prepare much for my interviews, besides looking up the publications of the faculty I was interviewing with. A grad student told me that at this point in the process, the school has already shown an interest in you, so you should treat it as you interviewing the school to determine if the school is a right fit for you. It's all about the right fit because you are going to be spending the next several years of your life at that school. Be prepared for interview questions such as what will your first year project be.
Edgar: The masters program I applied for didn't require any interviews.

How did you boost up your CV?
Tevis: Being involved and holding an officer position in a club. I also applied and got accepted into a research lab and that evolved into me pursuing an Honors in the Major with my own research interests. Becoming a TA is also a great way to boost your CV because many schools don't offer that position to undergraduates.
Angie: Getting involved in different organizations around campus and being truly involved in those organizations. Doing poster presentations at different conferences (ex. APA, SEPA, FURC, etc.) and speaking to professors about getting involved in publications.
Edgar: I had multiple summer internships that career services helped me obtain. I also had several research assistant positions throughout my UCF career.

What should I do if I'm not accepted to grad school?
Tevis: Remember that it's not the end of the world and you still have time. It's important to be professional if you're rejected and not to cut ties because that could ruin your chances of getting into grad school.
Angie: You can take a year off and get more research/life experience that will strengthen your CV. You can still work in a research lab after you graduate and can look up research opportunities for postbac (those with a bachelor's). If you want to know why you got rejected from a school, you can request that information from the school. This feedback can help you fix your problem areas and strengthen your application.

APA University Accreditation Search Tool:
https://apps.apa.org/accredsearch/?_ga=2.46898919.1131389061.1549523889-1446890287.1549523889