After the Summit—What to do Next?

1. Sort through all the information you gathered from the Summit. Visit the websites of programs that interest you. Review your notes and see if there was anyone you met with whom you would like to follow-up. Were there any “next steps” that workshop presenters or representatives at the Graduate School Fair recommended?

2. Finalize a list of schools and programs to which you want to apply. While you are researching schools, make a list of why you want to apply to that school specifically. This may be asked on an application, and this list will also help you narrow your selections.

3. Find out what standardized tests you will need to get into the program and schedule those tests. Be sure to give yourself enough time to study.

4. Update your résumé and determine who you will ask to write your letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of advance notice.

5. Start working on drafts of your statement of purpose. Make a list of your research, teaching and professional or internship experiences. List the experiences and what you learned.

Every program and every application is different. To help yourself stay organized, create a file for each program to which you plan to apply. Keep all your application materials in that folder, including:

- A checklist of the application requirements
- Contact information for the program and the graduate school
- Any notes about contacts you make
- Copies or print-outs of your application and statement of purpose
- A list of people you asked to write recommendation letters—and check them off as the letters are completed and received by the graduate school