

[Our View]

Grad School Selection Guide

For many students at Truman State, graduating with a bachelor's degree is not the end of their academic career. Some will go on to earn master's or professional degrees. Perhaps others will go further, obtaining coveted doctorates in whatever field they desire. But how do you choose which graduate school is best for you?

We, the Index Editorial Board, remember choosing which colleges to apply to during high school. Our parents helped us decide what we wanted from the colleges we were considering. Did the college offer the major program we wanted? How selective was the application process? What was the freshmen retention rate? Did we want to attend a dry campus or one that allowed alcohol, as long as students were of legal drinking age? How safe was the campus? How safe was the surrounding area? Were the scholarships competitive? We asked all these questions and more, and our parents guided us every step of the way as we sought answers.

Now, however, we're adults. While we're sure our parents are willing to help us choose which graduate school to attend — or whether to attend graduate school at all — the decisions are now solely ours to make, and the questions are now solely ours to answer.

The first question we encourage students to ask themselves when considering graduate school is simple — “Will getting a graduate degree benefit me?” Graduate degrees are not for everyone, nor do you need to pursue one right after getting your bachelor's degree. Maybe you want to start working first, save some money and pay off your student loans before taking on more debt. Maybe you already have a job lined up and know your employer will pay for you to continue your education if you work there for a certain number of years. All of these are valid reasons to decide to delay or not attend graduate school.

But if you are interested in getting a graduate degree, it's important to figure out what you need to do before starting the application process. Research what kind of degree you want and what you need to do to start applying. Most graduate degrees require you take the GRE, but medical schools require the MCAT and law schools require the LSAT, just to name a few tests. It'll feel a little like you're stuck in an inescapable cycle of standardized tests, review books and No. 2 pencils, but if you're sure you want to attend graduate school, then this is a necessary step.

Once the tests are complete and the scores are in, it comes time to figure out where to go. This is when we suggest you make a long list of characteristics you want your chosen university to have. Would you prefer a university in a large city or in a small town? What is the highest tuition you're willing to pay? Are you willing to go out of state to get your degree? Is the university of your dreams offering to waive your application fee? If not, are you willing to pay a \$75 application fee? What organizations might you want to join? Will the school let you pick up a Nerf gun and chase zombies across campus? There are so many questions you should answer before you make the decision to apply to a graduate school.

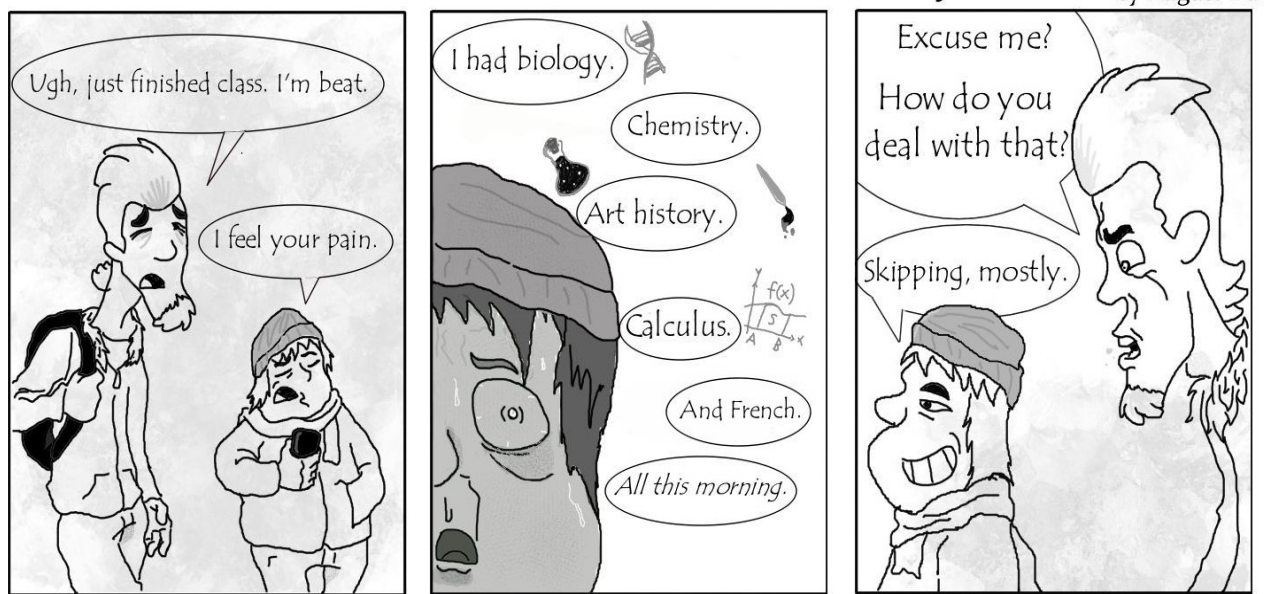
During the application process, you might have more questions. What is a personal statement? How do you write one? What's a résumé and how do you create that? For questions like this, the University Career Center is a great place to go for advice and an in-depth tutorial on how to prepare your application.

Even when all the applications are done, after the personal statements are written and the letters of recommendation are sent out, there's still the question of scholarships. Do you apply for an internal scholarship offered by the university? Or do you go to a third-party and apply for a scholarship that your chosen university might not accept?

Once upon a time, all these questions would be answered with the help of parents and school counselors. Now it's up to you to do the research and find your way, even if your parents and advisers are willing to help.

Whatever decision you make and wherever you decide to go, the Index Editorial Board wishes you the best of luck.

Early Schedules by August Davis



Letter TO THE Editor

Response to “El Chapo Comes to America”

Recently, objections from a passionate student were raised around our organization putting on a scavenger hunt where individuals who bought a ticket searched for small statues of El Chapo across campus. To our surprise, what started as a simple and creative fundraiser for our organization turned into a moral high ground for those seeking political opportunity. Instead of gracing what I honestly found as a bleeding heart complaint, I write today to discuss a bigger issue plaguing not just our campus at Truman, but college campuses across this great country: political correctness. Crippling political correctness that is sucking the very sustenance of our ability to relate to one another and forcing a mold that is not only uncomfortable for some, but also downright ridiculous for others. On a campus where diversity of thought and belief is encouraged, we should be doing so much better.

Political correctness has risen drastically in the last decade. The dangers of breeding this type of environment are many. First, is the creation of a generation that cannot stand to get their feelings hurt. Imagine a society that can't even stand up to a simple scavenger hunt without getting offended. Don't look now, but we're headed that way as the author of the complaint published last week so brilliantly displayed. Another danger of allowing such blatant political correctness to prevail is the inability to engage in political discourse. I found it painfully ironic that the author of the complaint took to writing a letter to the editor before reaching out to me, as the chair of the organization (and as the owner of the email address printed on every single advertisement). In fact, I'm still waiting for that “constructive discussion” he calls for to reach my inbox.

Finally, we reach the most dangerous part of fostering a culture of political correctness. This generation of soft feelings has no

idea how to handle confrontation. As mentioned previously, my organization received no invite to discourse about the subject. I had to read about it in the paper. Beyond that, those who supported the author of the complaint took to vandalizing posters. This included crossing out the word “Republicans” in College Republicans and writing in “Idiots.” Is that political discourse? No. This is the result of a politically correct mentality, a hypocritical one at that.

My suggestion to fix this problem? Check our righteous egos at the door and find something to laugh at, together. If we can't laugh together, how will we ever agree on anything? Instead of assuming my organization is poking fun at someone or something, why not find something we can both laugh at and move on? And if you really believe malicious intent is present, confront the individual, not publicly cause a scene. That's how constructive discussion takes place. However, the current environment of political correctness we are propping up on our campuses will never allow for this. We can do better, and we're going to start right now. Thanks to this complaint, I am excited to announce the next scavenger hunt the College Republicans will be putting on (this time, for free)! We will be searching for Hillary Clinton's email server, Bernie Sanders' comb and Martin O'Malley's voters. We hope to start discussion... and hopefully laugh. Advertisements to come soon!

Jake Buxton
Chairman, College Republicans at Truman State University

Editorial Policy

The Index is published Thursdays during the academic year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor-in-chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor-in-chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

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