

Psi Chi/UPO meeting minutes

GRE Night: March 4, 2009

**Pre-meeting information**

- Doug Cacialli is looking for research assistants. Looking at recidivism in juvenile sex offenders. May be 3 trips to Omaha... will be as painless as possible. People needed in April and would go on for a few months. May be paid and/or credit hours. Excellent choice for clinical grad school letter, possibly from Mario Scalora. E-mail [doug.cacialli@gmail.com](mailto:doug.cacialli@gmail.com) or call (402)304-7447 for more details.
- About 20 people attended the meeting.
- The meeting was called to order at 1732h

**Tabitha from KAPLAN Test Prep**

- Walkthrough of the GRE and admissions things will happen tonight.
- POP QUIZ! An analogy question (edifice : building :☺ and the correct answer was tome : book
  - Look for STRONG BRIDGES between the words, such as roots or opposites
  - This allows process of elimination
- What you do in freshman/sophomore year sets a baseline for GPA
- Academics focus on the GRE score almost as much
  - GRE has Quantitative, Verbal, and Analytical Writing
  - Quant: 45 minutes, 28 questions with math questions
  - Verbal: 30 questions, 30 minutes. Contains questions on reading comprehension, analogies, and sentence completions
  - Writing: A 45-minute and a 30-minute essay
  - GRE is computer-adaptive... the questions' difficulty changes based on answers
  - Small improvements in a score make a big difference in which percentile you're in
- There's the Psychology Subject GRE
  - Only offered 3 times a year: next is April 4
  - It's a traditional paper-and-#2-pencil exam
  - Has sections on experimental, social, and general
  - It's 2 hours and 50 minutes, and has ~200 questions
  - SIGN UP EARLY FOR IT!
- Experience as an admissions factor:
  - They want to know that you're committed, well-rounded, and have tried it out
  - Doing UCARE is a great way of getting experience!
- Personal characteristics:
  - SHOW, NOT TELL why you're a good candidate. Anecdotes are good.
  - Using a theme in essays/personal statements and demonstrating a fit helps
    - Use the language that they are looking for!
    - May have to write different essays for different schools
  - Letters of Rec: Find mentors early! You want QUALITY.
    - Ask early, since many people may ask the same person!
    - Send a thank-you note to your letter writers after the results
  - Interviews:
    - The entire time you're on campus, you're interviewing! Always be professional

- The application itself: Proof-read and do it early! Someone else reading it may help.
- POP QUIZ 2: Quantitative comparison question. The columns were  $(a+1)(a-1)$  and  $a^2$ . Obviously, the latter was the greater.
  - Putting the numbers in the same format is very helpful. Don't force yourself to solve!
- Taking practice tests is good. The KAPLAN website offers it for free.
- The best thing is to study. Whatever works, do it!
- Register early for the GRE, even though it's offered almost every day
- Thank a department if you're wait-listed... it will help you out there!
- KAPLAN options: an option exists for everything! Go to [kaptest.com](http://kaptest.com) for more details

### **Other GRE stuff**

- Re-taking the GRE: The GRE scores stick with you for 5 years. Best plan: Do it once, do it well. If extenuating circumstance comes up, explain it in a note or something.
- Many students take GRE either during summer before or fall of senior year
  - Some even do it spring of junior year!

### **Officer testimonies**

- Scott took the GRE in both August and October
- Nicole took the DAT (rather than the GRE)
- At Barnes & Noble, there are plenty of test prep things
- For the Psychology subject test, the 181 textbook is a great resource
- Try doing practice tests from different sources
- Check your schools for what is required!
- If a school "recommends" the Subject GRE, it only helps you to take it (if you bomb it, a recommender may be able to note it in his/her letter)
- The GRE places people into piles. But, it's not the end-all-be-all! The thing is a balanced application

### **Business**

- This meeting is the last one of the semester
- April 22, Psi Chi induction. You have to apply to get in!
- Applications due on March 27, no exceptions.
- Meeting adjourned at 1815h.