CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Here are some tips regarding Things to Do (this side of handout) and Sources of Information (other side of handout)

THINGS TO DO:

Below are suggestions to help you become a competitive applicant for graduate school.

Things to do throughout your undergraduate experience:

- Build relationships with faculty. There are a number of ways to gain information and assistance regarding graduate school from Psychology Department faculty:
  - Meet with course instructors during office hours
  - Request information when meeting with a formal Department Advisor. (See Psychology Department main office staff for information about advising hours.)
  - Set up an appointment with a designated Graduate School Advisor. (See Psychology Department main office staff for information about advising hours.)
- Join relevant student clubs and organizations such as Psi Chi, the Research Club, the Human Development Club, the Psychology Journal Club, and the Clinical/Counseling Club. Benefits of participation in these groups include:
  - gaining research experience,
  - attending and presenting at professional conferences,
  - working closely with Department faculty,
  - forming networks with other students interested in graduate programs.
- Apply for scholarships, awards, and/or other honors offered by MSCD (see Financial Aid website: http://www.mscd.edu/financialaid/scholarships/) and the Psychology Department (see Department website: http://www.mscd.edu/psychology/).
- Attend relevant conferences, presentations, and workshops offered by the Psychology Department. Information about these activities is made available on the Psychology Department website and via postings, handouts, and in-class announcements.

Things to do during your last two years (approximately) as an undergraduate student:

- Gain research, clinical, and/or other relevant experience by enrolling in PSY 3980 – Internship in Psychology. Field Experience Practicum. See the internship program (http://www.mscd.edu/internship/) offered by the MSCD Applied Learning Center (formerly the Internship Center) for additional information and opportunities (http://www.mscd.edu/appliedlearningcenter/)
- Ask Department faculty about opportunities to gain research, clinical, and/or other relevant experience by working as a Research Assistant or Independent Study student. Understand that the availability of, types of, and ways to acquire these opportunities differ between faculty. However, in most cases the best way to find out about these opportunities is to ask.
- Deliver presentations at the Annual MSCD Psychology Department Conference and/or other conferences such as the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference.
 SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Below are sources of information and assistance regarding graduate school offered by the MSCD Psychology Department.

- The Psychology Department website (http://www.mscd.edu/psychology/) contains links to information about various aspects of graduate school (e.g., relevant programs, tips on preparing for and applying to graduate programs) and other relevant information (e.g., student clubs, conferences, scholarships and awards).

- Books available from a Graduate School Advisor and in the Psychology Department main office:
  - *Graduate Study in Psychology* (American Psychological Association)
  - *Practicing to Take the GRE General Test* (Educational Testing Service)
  - *Insider’s Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology* (Norcross & Sayette)

- *Graduate Schools in Colorado*: This handout, which is available on the Psychology Department website and in the Psychology Department main office, contains descriptions and links to information about Psychology programs and degrees offered in Colorado.

- Handouts and other announcements regarding relevant presentations, workshops, scholarship/awards etc.

- Psychology Department faculty: As noted on the other side of this handout, there are a variety of ways to gain information and assistance regarding graduate school from Psychology Department faculty.

- Other Psychology students: Ask other students, especially upper-level students who have applied or plan to apply to graduate programs. As noted on the other side of this handout, a great way to get to know these students is to join student clubs and organizations such as Psi Chi, the Research Club, and the Human Development Club.