Notes From Grad School Panel 3/20/13

***Intro***

* **Mr. Sommo** – NYU school of Social Work
  + MSW Program
  + Gave out pamphlet – Can be found in Wolf 202
  + 2 year Maters program
  + “Field oriented”
  + Somewhat clinical, direct tract
  + Involves some research, though not as much as a Psy. D. typically would
  + What makes their program different
    - M.S.W. is terminal Degree in social work
    - Strong component of social work built in, stressed there
    - 65 credits; longer than many M.S.W.
    - Transferrable among different populations
  + Advice
    - Find someone that is doing type of work you want to do and talk to them, find out what degree they took, or best degree they think will be to help you get where you want to
    - Encourages visiting
* **Dr. Covelman** - Thomas Jefferson PhD Dept. Chair dept. of couple and Family Therapy
  + Program been around for 8 years
  + Students get to go to rounds in different relevant departments (medical departments other psych departments)
  + Are a collaborative program between Jefferson and a sister school
  + All teachers will be active clinicians
  + Research course, but not required research
  + But, research informed clinical approach
  + 2-year full-time
  + 66 credits
  + 500 credited clinical work, at least ½ of which will be with couples and families
  + Placements are provided by program – huge advantage to this program
  + Ongoing affiliations w/ varying associations
    - Homeless shelters
    - Hospitals
    - Chronic illness patients w/ psychosocial problems
    - Etc.
  + 2 days of class a week
  + Case load builds slowly over time building to 8-10 hrs
  + Only Masters program in country w/ 2 tracks
    - Sex Therapy
      * More sex therapy cases
      * 2 additional sex therapy courses
    - Couples/family tract
      * 2 additional focused courses Rolling Admissions
      * 15-18 students admitted/year
      * “Feel free to call or email him”
      * >90% grad. Rate
      * >93% students found job w/in 1st year
      * 100% licensing exam pass rate thus far
* **Ms. Sinko** – OT dept. Thomas Jefferson
  + Graduate of OT masters at TJ
  + Currently in Doctoral OT Program
  + OT overview
    - Work with diverse population of patients
    - “Help people gain/regain the skills needed for the job of life’
    - Very involved with the Geriatric population
  + Their program
    - Generalist approach
      * After graduating, you’ll be prepared to go into any aspect of OT practice
      * Job Outlook
        + “Hot job”
        + Everyone who graduates gets job with little difficulty
* **Dr. Nolan** – Widener University
  + Rep. all of Psychology Graduate programs at Widener
    - Psy. D.
    - Widener
      * If you get in, they’ll get you out
        + i.e. Help you through it
      * Usually about 5 years, 7 year limit
      * Application Process: only accept for fall semester
        + Dec. 15th deadline

**Q. *Is there anything specific programs look for in applicant?***

* **Mr. Sommo** – some experience, volunteering or service component
  + Follow directions in application
  + ***Is this a possible step in going towards clinical work?***
    - Yes, but not all who get MSW have this as goal
* Dr. **Covelman** – some clinically related, dedicated work
  + Good writing very important
  + Show initiative
  + Exemplify good comprehension skills
  + Psychology majors have shown to be most prepared, have easiest transition
  + Personal interviews required
    - Look for maturity, self-awareness
    - Why interested?
    - Looking for good fit between interests and program
* **Ms. Sinko**
  + Look for well-rounded applicants
  + Interviews
    - Time-management
    - Know what OT is, have drive for it
* **Dr. Nolan** 
  + Are lenient in evaluating GPA/GRE if the other is better
  + Interview required; by invite only
    - Two-way interview, gives student opportunity to see if widener is good fit as well
  + Dual degree with Human sexuality possible
    - Coordinate interviews with Psy. D. for prospective matriculates
* **Lauren Swift**
* PhD programs are somewhat different
  + Show that you can help them in their specific research
  + Prior research is very important

Q. ***Do programs offer compensation financially?***

* **Mr. Sommo**
  + Yes, merit based
  + $7-17k/year
  + About 95% get some compensation
  + Additional awards available
  + Most students have loans
  + No full rides yet
  + It is a priority for them
* **Dr. Covelman**
  + No full scholarships offered
  + Have accessible part time job opportunity, with specific related work with a faculty member
    - $13-14/hour
    - Relates to educational goal
  + 70% get some form of financial compensation
* **Dr. Nolan**
  + Yes, work study in addition to merit-based funding

Q. ***What testing do you require for admissions? Is it listed on website?***

* **Mr. Sommo**
  + Do NOT require any Standardized test
* **Dr. Covelman**
  + Requires GRE or MAT
  + (Aside) Jefferson as a University is very interested in collaborative education
    - A lot of interactive programs that involve student throughout the health sciences
    - Emphasis of working as a healthcare team
* **Ms. Sinko**
  + All on the website
  + But yes, require GRE
  + APPLY EARLY!!! (late Summer Early Fall)
* **Dr. Nolan**
  + Yes, it is all on the website
  + Varies much by program
  + Some will take MAM in replacement of GRE

Q. **Final Word**

* **Mr. Sommo**
  + Most important part of whole procedure is to investigate
    - They have prior students who are there to show you campus and answer your questions
    - Information Sessions
    - “Visiting is a must”
    - Get student’s perspective
    - “Put yourself outside of your comfort zone if you don’t think you’d like going to school in the city”
* **Dr. Covelman**
  + Agrees wholeheartedly with what Dr. Sommo said above
  + Also, it helps to have prior student program
  + Family therapy degree gives you many options after
    - Can go into private practice
    - Can work for agencies helping kids stay in school
    - Psychiatric hospitals

**Ms. Sinko**

* + Get to work collaboratively with other subfields of OT
  + APPLY EARLY
  + Upcoming events
    - Sat. Apr. 6th – open house
    - Info sessions throughout spring/summer
* **Dr. Nolan**
  + ***Where is Widener?***
    - Right off of 95 (Exit 6) or 476 (Exit 1)
    - Relatively small Campus 20-25 minutes from Center City
    - Near Airport
* **Swift** – I’m always available in Wolf 202, come in and ask me Questions!

Westchester

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