**GRADUATE SCHOOL PANEL NOTES**

**April 14, 2015**

Panelist Contact Information:

1. Josh Brenner ([Camila.shahani-Denning@hofstra.edu](mailto:Camila.shahani-Denning@hofstra.edu))

Hofstra University Long Island, New York

Masters student at Hofstra University

Industrial and organizational psychology Top 5 jobs in American in 2015.

1. Meredith Weber, PhD ([meriw@temple.edu](mailto:meriw@temple.edu))

Temple University, School of Psychology

PhD and EDS program in Temple University.

1. Caitlin Posillico (cposillico@psych.udel.edu)

University of Delaware, Neuroscience 4+1 student masters student in dept. of Psychological and Brain Sciences

1. Don Sharples, MEd ([Donald.Sharples@jefferson.edu](mailto:Donald.Sharples@jefferson.edu))

Jefferson University -Director of graduate admissions

1. Arun Asok (aasok@udel.edu)

University of Delaware

5th year PhD student in behavioral neuroscience

1. Anna Klintsova, PhD ([klintsov@udel.edu](mailto:klintsov@udel.edu))

University of Delaware

Associate professor in department of psychological and brain science. Graduate program in US/ Europe

1. \*\*Couldn’t attend the panel, but you are welcome to contact them for more information about pursuing social work\*\*

NYU Silver School of Social Work ([Silver.admissions@nyu.edu](mailto:Silver.admissions@nyu.edu))

**Discussion:**

* Industrial Organizational Psychology-
  + What is the difference between IO and HR?
    - IO follows scientist-practitioner model, they find a scientific model and apply it to organizations. Specifically, they focus on current theories and apply them to the workspace. Whereas HR focuses more on the benefits of employees and hiring.
  + The average day of IO- market research, research on specific trends and statistical research, training and development fields. Go company, interview employees and find their needs. Then implement changes that would improve the work flow.
  + Does it delve into communications and marketing?
    - Second year of master’s program is an internship, and the biggest company that gives these internships are marketing companies.
* MD/PhD?
  + Get yourself involved in a research lab during undergraduate and see if that is something that you see yourself doing every day for the rest of your life. Do you like to investigate the unknown (PhD) or base your work on the findings of others before you (MD)?
  + Volunteer, shadow, observe, and interview professionals in that career. Find out how they got to where they are and where they see the field going in the future.
* Outlook for couple and family Therapy? Internships? Are there specialties?
  + Faculty in the university set up hour blocks for students that want to be involved in internships (Jefferson). It is never too early to network!
  + Family and Couple Therapy program was founded in 2007, and since it was launched its graduates have had a 100% passing rate on the licensing exam, and they have a job within 3 months of graduating. These jobs can be in agencies, private practice, hospitals etc.
  + Specialties- Two tracks in this school: Sex therapy, or Family therapy
    - Within the family therapy track you can branch off into children or adults.
    - That decision (sex therapy or family therapy) is made at the end of the second year.
* Social work/ Master’s Degree. Is there a growing need for academic/ guidance counselors? What else can you use a social work degree?
  + Becoming a licensed social worker allows you to be in a variety of settings (private practice, hospital, schools). Because of the wide range of places where you can work the job outlook for social workers is promising.
* Occupational Therapy, is a psych/NSCI degree “good enough” to apply to OT school?
  + There are many student applicants from a wide range of degrees, psychology and neuroscience majors are often seen in these applications. Not only that but they are very successful in this career.
* Is it OK to have course work from another institution, say if you take a gap year? Does taking a gap year between undergraduate and graduate school put you back?
  + - OT, and PT are careers that are often explored after obtaining a bachelor’s degree. So many applicants have coursework from institutions other than their undergraduate school, so yes!
* Masters before PhD?
  + Typically, in the US, Masters are required to get into PhD programs. However, some PhD programs have a master’s degree built into their programs. Some students that do not have a good GPA decide to go to the Master’s route before applying to the PhD to improve their candidacy.
* PhD in Europe vs USA
  + In Europe it is all about how much you can prove to a professor that you are interested in their research, and it is free of charge. Here in the US it is also free of charge.
  + Is it easier to get into Europe?
    - Both US and Europe like having international students, it is a great opportunity to network, and see a different culture. Also as opposed to the US, master’s degree is not as popular, so PhD may be obtained faster. For example, in Russia the PhD is only 3 years.
  + What countries are upcoming in neuroscience?
    - Germany, England, Italy. It depends on the University and the specific field within neuroscience, overall Germany has a very good neuroscience programs.
* PSYCd, vs PhD?
  + Psycd is a degree for that is focused more on working with people and less research focus. People with these degree usually go into social work, and private practice.
  + PhD can go into academia, working with people, industries etc. The courses are more science and math heavy.
* The differences between a 4+1 program vs. graduate school
  + You do not have to move between undergraduate and graduate school. You are familiar with your lab space and mentor, and it is nice to get the prior experience. So you have the opportunity to interview around in your department.
  + A good opportunity to see if your PhD is what you really want to do
* Graduate School Application and Interview Process
  + Submit applications, and contact people in the University. Acceptance into specific labs not necessarily based on student credentials, but also on lab funding. When you go in for interviews, even if you really want to work with one professor do not make definitive statements that might close doors. If the specific professor is not taking in graduate students at the time due to funding, you do not want to shut doors with other professors in that institution.
  + When you apply to graduate school does it matter what program you apply to if you know you want to do private practice?
    - Look into programs that have a practicum requirement, and will allow you to get licensing.
* Does it matter who you know to get into graduate school?
  + It is an inverted pyramid model. First GPA, GRE, scores, then letter of recommendations, personal interview, and then who you know.