



# Get Educated



Is Graduate School Right for Me,  
Right Now?

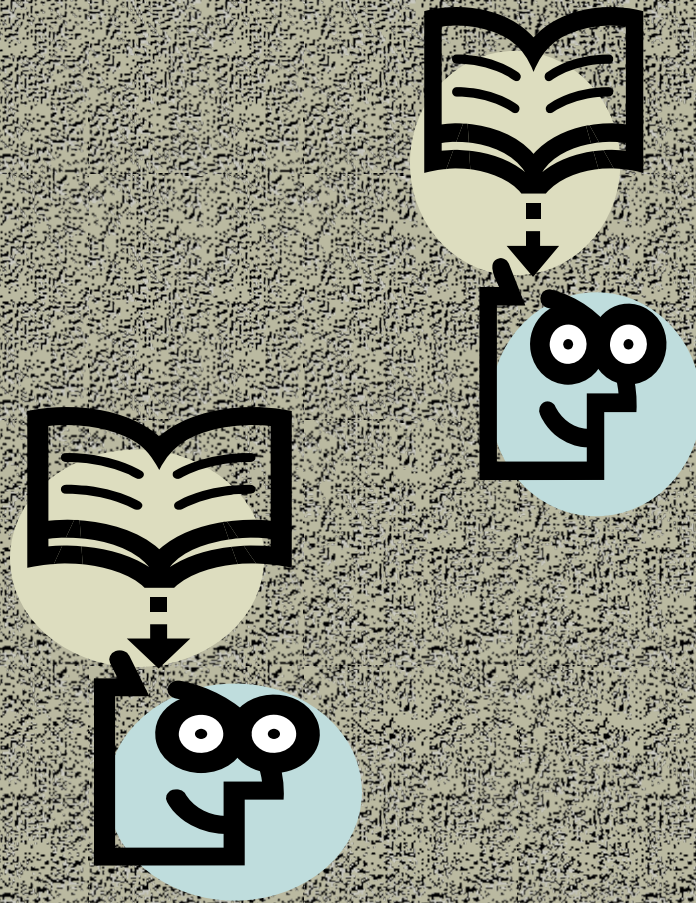
# Why Go to Grad School?

- Advantages
  - Increased income
  - Chance of promotion
  - Self-fulfillment
  - Increased skill set
  - Secure entry into field





# Why go to Grad School?



## ■ Disadvantages

- It's costly
- Delays career decision
- May become overeducated
- Can't work full-time
- Going part-time takes a long time



# Points to Consider

- Grad schools are experiencing steadily increasing enrollments
- Some students enter to simply put off the inevitable
- Before applying, fully investigate:
  - Working conditions
  - Employment prospects
  - Physical/mental requirements



# Points to Consider (continued)

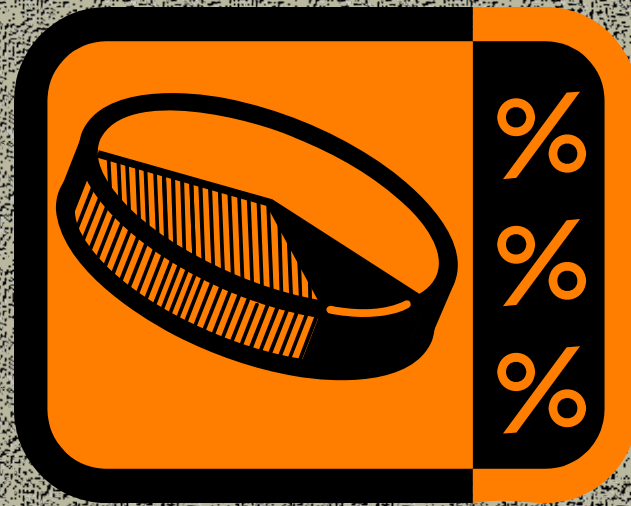
- Before you go, consider the following:
  - What do I want to accomplish?
  - What are my goals?
  - Is graduate school necessary?
  - Do I have the interest and ability?
  - Am I delaying career decision-making?
  - Am I willing to invest,



# Other Things to Consider

- Two most frequent reasons for dropping out
  - Dislike intense academic work
  - Ill-defined career goals, also
- Is further education absolutely necessary?
  - Other fields besides medicine, law, academics

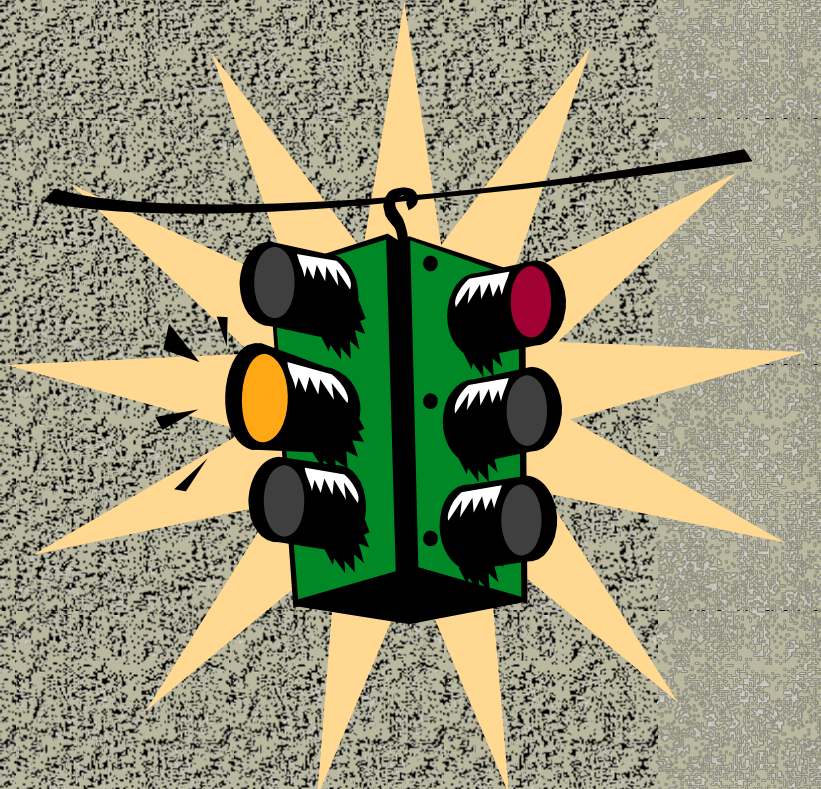
# Did you know that...



- according to the senior survey conducted the last five years
  - 40% to 45% of grads go immediately
  - Means 55-60% don't

# Why Wait?

- \$\$\$\$\$\$\$
- Graduate study is expensive
  - On your own
  - MS programs offer few scholarships
  - Forgo full-time work
  - Note: If you go, make sure to get fully funded through TA and RA positions.



# Why Wait?



- Take a break
  - Intense academic experience at HMC
  - Might like a chance to travel
  - Work as change of pace
  - Or both, i.e., Peace Corps

# Why Wait?

- Indecisive/open-minded
  - Not sure what you want to study
    - Need more information
      - World of work
      - How did you decide to come to HMC?



# Why wait?



- Do I need to go now?
  - What does my field of interest require?
  - What am I willing to do?
  - Can I get on-the-job training?

# Why Wait?

- Too busy
  - Concentrating on qualifications
  - Graduate school requires extensive research/preparation



# Why Wait

## ■ Strategy

- Know where you want to go
- Take a break to get experience





# When to Go to Graduate School

- Decision up to you
- Pros
  - Sources of information are on campus
  - Faculty members better remember you
  - Study habits ingrained
  - Some schools prefer direct entry
- Cons
  - Preference given to experienced grads
- If you delay, take tests

# Thoughts about deciding

- List some alternatives
- List consequences of alternative
- Evaluate the outcomes
- Seek help on your decision-making process



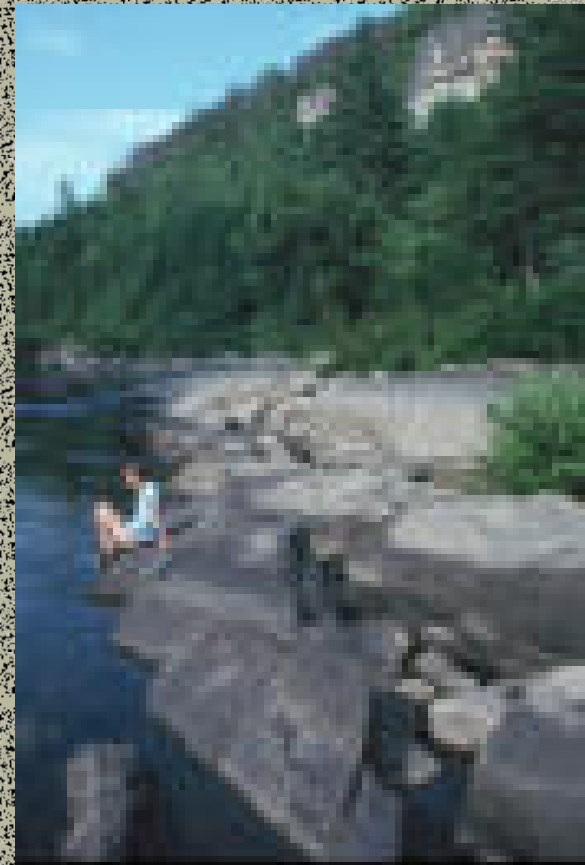


# Decision Time

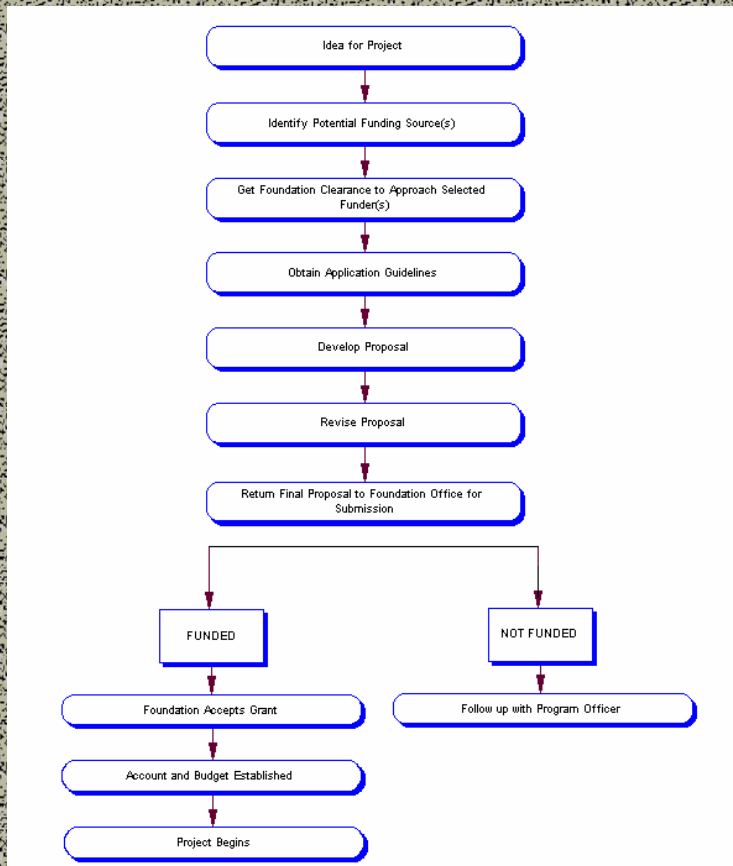
- I'm not going to go
  - At least not yet
  - I want to get some experience
- I'm pretty sure I'll go...
  - eventually, but not right now
- I'm ready and raring to go
  - Sign me up!

# Those of you who are ready...

- The next step is to decide where...
  - For some, it's an exact science
  - For others, it is taking chances



# The Application Process



- Application forms
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- Testing



# Financial Aid

- Fellowships
- Teaching Assistantships
- Resident Assistantships
- Long-Term Educational Loans
- Other Employment

# Be Careful!

- Funding varies from institution to institution
  - Do your homework
  - Factor differences into decision



# Conclusion



- Two different decisions:
  - Do I go to grad school?
  - If so, do I go now?
    - And forgo experience, and a full-time salary
- Still in doubt?  
Come to OCS