

A Perspective on Graduate School

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Why Graduate School?

- An advanced degree can lead to a more desirable engineering position
 - specialization in area of interest
- A Ph.D. is generally required for
 - R&D positions, high-level technical positions in industry
 - leadership or advisory positions outside of industry (e.g. government)
 - university faculty

MS or PhD?

- MS Degree
 - Emphasis is on coursework
 - 1-2 years
- PhD Degree
 - Emphasis is on research
 - 4-6 years (usually includes MS)
 - self-motivation/drive needed to succeed!

Prepare in Advance

- Coursework
 - Selection is important
 - ~3.7/4.0 GPA is cut-off for top-tier schools
- Research
 - Plan ahead (courses, independent reading)
 - Dedicate significant effort (>10hr/wk)
- Internships
 - Can provide useful experience & perspective

The Application Process

- Tests (GRE, TOEFL, etc.)
 - Quantitative & Analytical test scores should be good (>90th percentile)
 - Verbal test scores should be adequate
- Recommendation letters
 - Faculty references carry more weight
- Statement of purpose
 - should be coherent
- Other relevant information to include

Make Yourself Stand Out

- Contact professors for whom you'd like to work in graduate school
- Get meaningful research experience
 - publications and/or patents
 - Do research for a professor at a school where you'd like to go for graduate study
- Secure a scholarship/fellowship
 - NSF, Hertz, NDSEG, DOE, ...

The Admissions Process

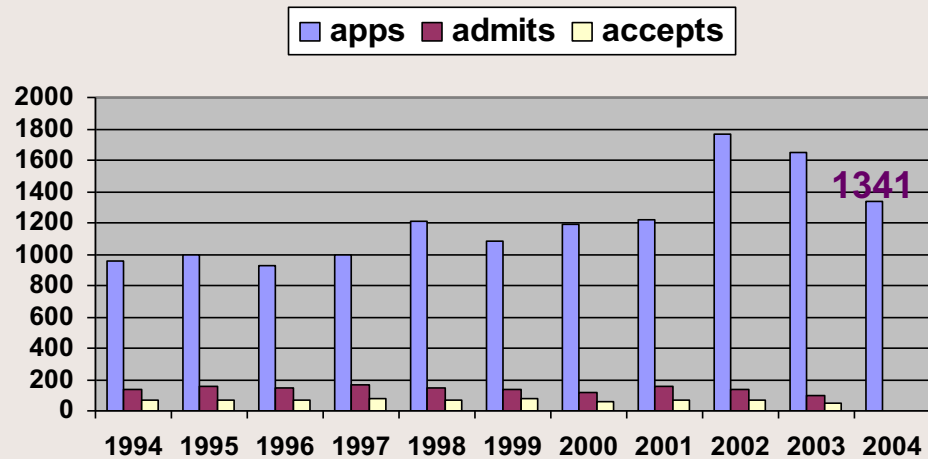
- Applications are reviewed by faculty in your stated primary area of interest
- Competition is against other applicants, for a limited number of slots
 - This year, less than 7% of applicants were admitted into UCB EECS graduate program
- All admission decisions are made by committee

How to Decide?

- Visit the candidate schools
 - Talk to professors and graduate students
- Consider the reputation of the program and the faculty
 - Leadership and vision for cutting-edge research is important for PhD education
- Clarify details of financial aid offers (TA, research assistant, fellowship)

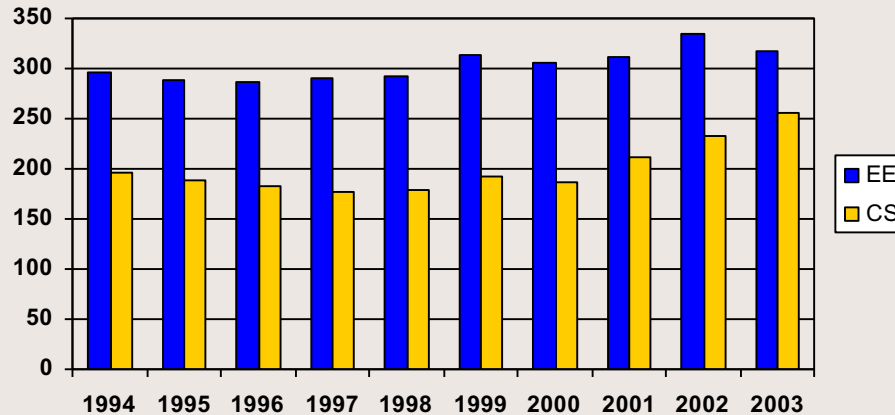
Historical Admission Trends

Electrical Engineering

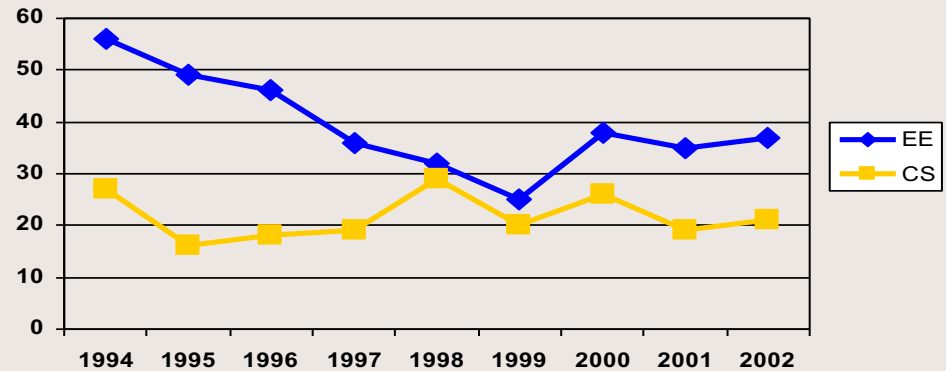


Enrollment Statistics

ENROLLMENT



PhD's AWARDED



Time to PhD Degree

CURRENT STUDENTS

MEDIAN # OF SEMESTERS IN PhD PROGRAM

