So you are thinking about graduate school . . . .
What are the kinds of things that you might want to consider?

- Location
- Prestige
- Unusual kinds of facilities (e.g. MURR)
- Famous in the area you are interested in
- Notable person
- Other reasons
How do I find out about a specific program?

- ACS meetings
- Talk to faculty/grad students/visiting folks from that institution
- The Web
- Write the graduate coordinator to request info
- Arrange a site visit/grad student weekend
Other sources

• American Chemical Society publishes two useful books in this area: the Directory of Graduate Research and the Chemical Sciences Graduate School Finder
The ACS Directory of Graduate Research

Is the most comprehensive source of information on chemical research and researchers at universities in the United States and Canada.

- Provides information on graduate programs from 12 disciplines within the chemical sciences: chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry, medicinal/pharmaceutical chemistry, clinical chemistry, polymer science, food science, toxicology, marine science, forensic science, materials science, and environmental science.
The ACS Directory of Graduate Research

- Contains information on degrees offered, areas of specialization, and interdisciplinary programs.

- Lists faculty member biographical information, area of specialization, titles of all papers published within the last two years, individual telephone numbers, and FAX numbers.

- Contains listings for 694 academic programs, 12,365 faculty members, and 88,637 publication citations.
The first thing you must decide when contemplating a move to graduate work is whether a masters or Ph.D. degree is the desired goal. While the length of time required to obtain a Ph.D. (5-6 years) is considerably longer than that for a masters (2-3 years), a Ph.D. is the preferred degree for research positions in industry, academia or the government and generally commands a higher salary. For an academic position as a faculty member at a four-year college or university, a Ph.D. is a must.

In addition, many schools prefer to admit students who are willing to commit several years to a Ph.D. program over those students who apply for a masters degree. Discuss your choice of which degree to pursue with your faculty advisor.
Standards for admission Graduate schools will look at four main areas:

• Grades
• GRE scores
• Letters of recommendation
• Research experience
What you need to get in the door . . .

- The importance of letters of recommendation cannot be overemphasized. Strong reference letters from chemistry professors can bolster an application which might be weak in the areas of grades and test results. Thus, it is imperative that you introduce yourself to some of the faculty members in the department and get to know them. Evidence in your application that you have had some research experience will also make a highly favorable impression upon an admission committee.

How to recognize the moods of an Irish setter

- happy
- depressed
- angry
- pensive
- excited
- suicidal
Fundage and the money side of this venture . . .

- **Cost of graduate school** Graduate work in chemistry is almost always fully funded for the student by the university through teaching assistantships and/or research assistantships. These assistantships provide full tuition remission as well as a modest, but livable, monthly stipend. In addition, a number of fellowships are available for graduate students.

- The prestige associated with a fellowship benefits the recipient throughout her or his career in chemistry.

- Some people like to teach!!!
What do you want to do?

• How can you best determine your "field of endeavor"?
  - Work is a couple of different labs as an undergraduate research assistant
  - TONS of summer internships and externships are available

http://www.jobs.nih.gov/
What do you want to do?

• Go to National Meetings and talk to people
• Read the current literature
• Become familiar with the trends in your field
Other methods of deciding where to go . . . .

• Apply to a program that has a specific plan or bent +
• Apply to a program that has a specific person +/-
• Apply to a program because of other research facilities +/-
• Apply to a program because of proximity to a beach or other activity ?+ if important
Situations to avoid (just my opinion!!)

• Faculty members involved in unethical practices
• Programs without basic funding
• Dying areas of research
• Department heads as group leaders/advisors (worked out VERY poorly for a friend of mine!)
• Places that you know you won’t like because someone wants you to go there!