A weekend for undergraduate students from Minority Serving Institutions interested in pursuing graduate and professional degrees in education
The PENN CENTER FOR MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS (CMSI) and the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (Penn GSE) host a weekend for undergraduate students from Minority Serving Institutions interested in pursuing graduate and professional degrees in education.

Filled with provocative and interesting sample classes and tours of the beautiful Penn campus, this weekend also includes a "straight talk" student panel, Philadelphia trolley tour, dining out in Philly, a CMSI mixer and much more. There is also a session hosted by Penn GSE Admissions with complete information regarding the application process at Penn and financial aid.

Our Director, Marybeth Gasman, would like to meet you and answer your questions regarding Penn GSE, your goals and dreams, and taking your first steps towards a master’s or doctoral degree.

1Weekend expenses are paid for by Penn.

STUDENT PANEL

Visiting students get a chance to interact with current Penn graduate students in a students only discussion around the “Penn experience.” Students are encouraged to explore the cultural differences of Minority Serving Institutions and Predominantly White Institutions.

样证 graduate CLASSES

Provocative, educational case studies are presented and led by Professor Gasman, Center Advisory Board members, and current Center doctoral students. Major issues are identified and thoroughly discussed in an open, supportive environment at Penn GSE.

"When we first arrived, Marybeth was so welcoming! I just felt so comfortable when I got there and she greeted us with a big Hi!"

-- FELECIA COMMODORE, PhD Student, Class Facilitator

"I have participated in the MSI weekend by teaching classes. Each year I am more and more amazed by the brilliance and talent of these students. They are not only passionate about academic achievement but see it as a vehicle to shape the world around them. To see students who may have never thought they could attend an Ivy League graduate school like Penn realize that it is well within their reach and capability is a privilege to witness. They reignite my passion to be a professor and a scholar. It is truly one of my highlights while here at Penn.”

-- NELSON BOWMAN III, Executive Director of Development, Prairie View A&M University & Class Facilitator

"Teaching during the Minority Serving Institution Weekend was great and I attribute that to the energy created by the students. They were assertive, attentive, decisive, and seemingly well beyond their years. I would certainly enjoy teaching these students again.”

-- NELSON BOWMAN III, Executive Director of Development, Prairie View A&M University & Class Facilitator
Penn GSE Admissions Session

This session includes tips on how to apply for graduate school. Students are informed about what is valued in the application process and how to stand out among the applicant pool. Financial aid options are also discussed and students are able to ask questions in a comfortable and low-key environment.

CSM Mixer

A relaxed afternoon with Professor Marybeth Gasman at the Center where you can sample favorite Philly foods, mingle with weekend participants, Penn students, take pictures and learn more about MSIs.

Tips For Applying to Graduate School

1. **Allow Enough Time**—there are numerous components to the application process and you want to allow time for unavoidable delays, revisions, and collecting references.

2. **Check Deadlines for Scholarship/Funding Applications**—there are many sources for additional funding. However they have strict deadlines and requirements so you will want to start this search as soon as you have decided you are going to graduate school.

3. **Do Your Research**—after you have decided exactly why you want to attend graduate school, start looking for the schools that appeal to you both conceptually and realistically. Familiarize yourself with the school mission, size and location preferences, degree offerings, financial aid packages, and research opportunities.

4. **Compare and Contrast Your Top Choices**—sometimes the choice is clear, other times there are factors that must be ranked in order to make the best choice. Try to line up “apples to apples” in order of importance and then evaluate the simple pros and cons of each option.

5. **Tailor Your Personal Statement**—different schools have different “ideal” candidates, so do your research and try to tailor your application to appeal to the mission and goals of the programs to which you apply.

6. **Visit the Campus**—this is a must before you make the final decision. Visiting classes, talking to students and professors, and just walking the campus will inform you infinitely more than any website or brochure could ever convey.

---

**Previous Institutional Participants**

1. Northwest Indian College
   WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

2. Paul Quinn College
   DALLAS, TX

3. National Hispanic University
   SAN JOSE, CA

4. California State University-Sacramento
   SACRAMENTO, CA

5. University of Texas-Brownsville
   BROWNSVILLE, TX

6. Florida International University
   MIAMI, FL

7. Howard University
   WASHINGTON, DC

8. Lincoln University
   OXFORD, PA

9. Esperanza College
   PHILADELPHIA, PA

10. University of Texas-El Paso
    EL PASO, TX

11. North Carolina Central University
    DURHAM, NC

12. Dillard University
    NEW ORLEANS, LA

13. Philander Smith College
    LITTLE ROCK, AR

14. Morehouse College
    ATLANTA, GA

15. California State University-Dominquez Hills
    DOMINQUEZ HILLS, CA

16. Prairie View A&M University
    PRAIRIE VIEW, TX

17. Spelman College
    ATLANTA, GA

18. University of Texas-Pan American
    EDINBURG, TX

19. Morgan State University
    BALTIMORE, MD

20. University of Massachusetts-Boston
    BOSTON, MA
Historic Metropolitan Campus
Led by Benjamin Franklin, Philadelphia’s leading citizens organized 24 trustees to form an institution of higher education. In 1751, Penn opened its doors to the children of the gentry and common people alike as the “Academy and Charitable School in the Province of Pennsylvania.”

Student Stats (Fall, 2013)
- Full-time: 21,344
- Part-time: 3,286
- Total: 24,630
- Full-time Undergraduate: 10,319
- Full-time Graduate/professional: 11,025
- Graduate School of Education, 1,574

Diversity
Penn GSE is committed to fostering diversity among students, faculty, and staff. 32% of the students in the incoming class of 2014 are people of color, 72% are women, and 27% are international students. Currently, 29% of GSE’s 35 standing faculty members are people of color, and 46% are women.

World Class Libraries
Research heaven! Over 6.19 million books (print); 4.23 million microform items; 134,547 serials received; 1,11 million e-books; 116,272 e-journals; 2.08 million digitized images; and 33,835 videos reside here.

Fitness, Wellness, and Health
Penn Graduate students have access to fitness classes and work-out equipment at the Pottruck Fitness Center, participate in a variety of intramural sports competitions, and compete in the Penn SHAPE challenge, which is a semester-long fitness program that gives Penn graduate students free access to fitness assessments, as well as workshops covering a variety of topics such as yoga, meditation, weight loss, muscle building, massage, functional synergy, nutrition, and personal health.

Greek Life and Multicultural Organizations
Today at Penn there are 53 Greek social fraternity and sorority chapters, including 14 chapters in the Multicultural Greek Council. The three multicultural umbrella organizations at Penn: MAU, La Casa Latina, and PAACH, open to both undergrads and graduate students, provide support for Black, Latino, and Asian cultural groups and forums on campus.

Strong Community Ties
Nearly 14,000 University students, faculty and staff participate in more than 300 Penn volunteer and community service programs, as well as the more than 60 academically based community service courses that are taught each year.

Study Abroad
Penn ranks 1st among the Ivy League schools and 7th nationwide among doctoral/research institutions in the number of students studying abroad, encompassing over 55 countries.

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Founded in 1971, the Annenberg Center is one of the nation’s foremost urban performing arts centers on a major university campus, serving as a cultural destination in Philadelphia and connecting regional audiences and the University through a broad range of programs in theatre, music and dance.

Locust Walk
A beautiful, bustling walkway through the center of campus where you will find students on any given day performing, petitioning, politicking, socializing, partying, parading and just about anything else you can think of!
“It encouraged me tremendously! My intrinsic motivation increased to dream bigger dreams.”

“I was indifferent to graduate school until I visited the University of Pennsylvania. I am now looking forward to graduate school and venturing outside of my HBCU.”

“I am valuable. My perspective is important and so is my struggle. I can use all of my past experiences to build my future.”

“Graduate school seems more accessible, affordable and realistic now.”

“It really encouraged me to look into the higher education masters degree. I always wanted to work at a college/university, but I never knew there were degrees for those positions.”

“I will constantly reflect on the mission of Minority Serving Institutions in preparation for life after college. I did not recognize the importance of what I have learned throughout my matriculation until speaking to current Penn graduate students and other attendees of the weekend about their MSI experience.”
“I saw how achievable graduate school was for me.”
SPONSORED BY:

Graduate School of Education
Penn GSE

Center for MSIs

ETS

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION