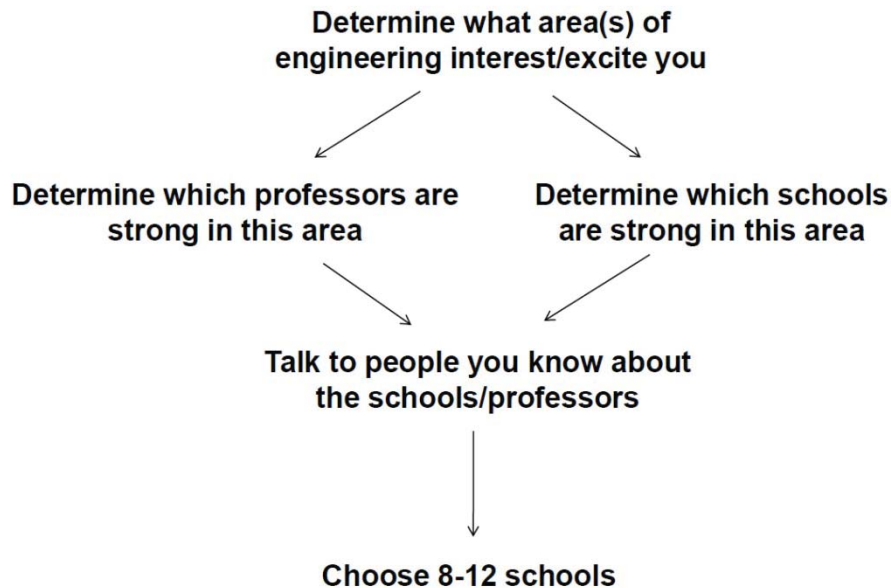


## Choosing a School/Advisor Checklist



### **Figuring out what you like:**

- Eliminate what you don't like (Theory? Experiment?)
- Read journals (Nature family, Science, etc)
- Department websites
- Society bulletins (ACS, AIChE, IEEE, MRS)
- Science blogs/websites (Wired)
- Attend dept seminars

### **Finding (and choosing) a professor who is doing that research:**

- Do literature searches – Who publishes? Who is writing review articles?
- Look at department websites: not just in your field
- Talk with people about the (potential) professor – are they evil?
- Consider if you want to be in a large or a small research group?
- Consider if you want a lot of attention or if you want to work more independently?
- Key criteria: current grad students, recent publications

### **Choosing a school:**

- Look at top 10-15 schools in engineering and in individual fields (not the same); the top schools rotate frequently, as the ranking is very dependent on funding and # of PhDs which fluctuates
- Look at the degree requirements
- Apply to the PhD degree program which best suits your academic background
- Apply to a school where there are at least 3 profs that you would want to work for