Choosing a School/Advisor

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Determine what area(s) of engineering interest/excite you

Determine which professors are strong in this area

Determine which schools are strong in this area

Talk to people you know about the schools/professors

Choose 8-12 schools
Narrowing down your interests

Read primary literature (and non-primary literature)
- Journals like: Nature family, Science
- Department websites
- Society bulletins (ACS, AIChE, IEEE, MRS)
- Science blogs/websites (Wired)
- Go to department seminars
- Talk with faculty and graduate students
- Do research

Determine what type of research interests you more:
- Experimental vs. Theoretical?
- Working independently or as a group?
- Interdisciplinary? (can be out of your comfort zone)
Looking for professors/ schools

Finding a professor who is doing that research:
- Do literature searches – Who publishes? Who is writing review articles?
- Talk with your professors
- Look at department websites: look at websites both in Chem E and in other fields

Look at the top 15-30 schools
- Look at top schools in engineering and in individual fields
- The top schools rotate frequently, as the ranking is very dependent on funding which fluctuates
- Look at the degree requirements
Choosing a professor:
- Talk with people about the professor
- 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
- Look at the make-up of the professor’s current research group

Choosing a school:
- 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