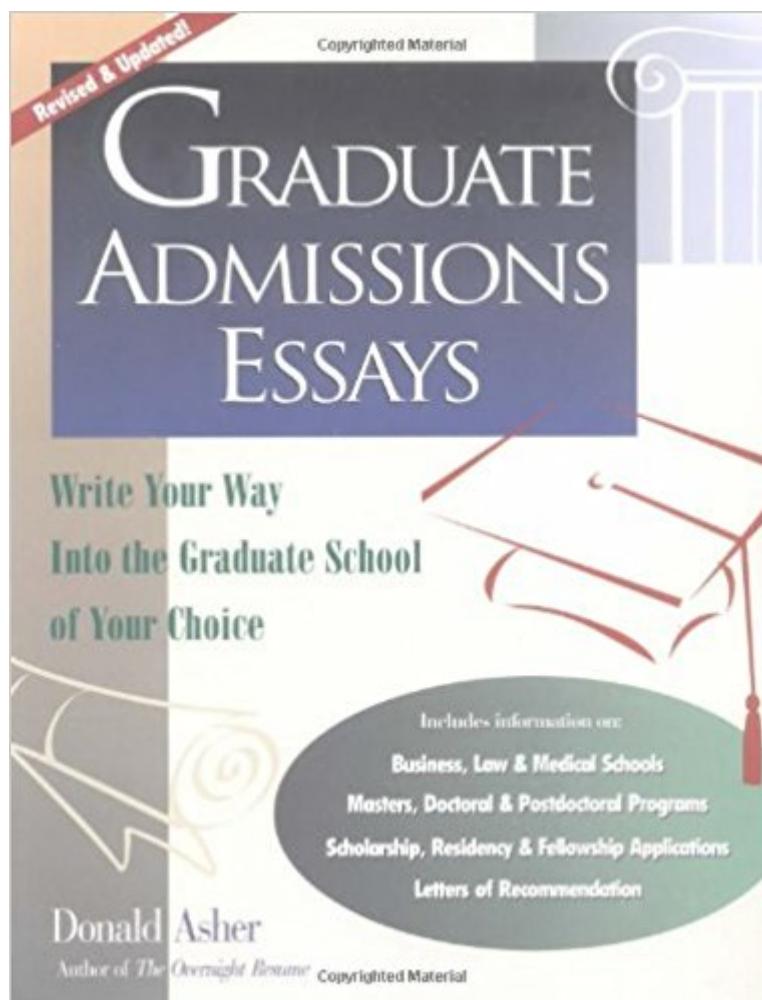


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# Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way Into The Graduate School Of Your Choice



## **Synopsis**

Veteran higher-education consultant Donald Asher demystifies the graduate school application process and offers a detailed action plan that has proved successful for some of the most competitive programs in the country. The 50 sample essays-selected from thousands of candidates-showcase the best of the best, while the Essay Hall of Shame identifies common pitfalls to avoid. Sample letters of recommendation and essays for scholarships, residencies, fellowships, and postgraduate and postdoctoral applications cover all stages of the application process. Teaches how to craft a winning essay with 50 state-of-the-art samples to inspire, instruct, and all but guarantee a top-of-the-pile application. Updated third edition includes an entirely new chapter dedicated to online applications and how they're managed, processed, and considered. Previous editions have sold 100,000 copies. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In the fall of 2003, I applied to 7 top PhD programs in my field (in the sciences), including the 5 best. Although I had graduated from the top Ivy League university, I had worked for 5 years and wasn't sure how I'd present myself to the graduate programs. I had reasonably good GRE scores, but all of my recommendations were from industry, so I needed to massage my personal statement to reflect strong industrial experience. Using this book as a guide, I completed great personal statements. This book helped me through the writing and revising. In total, for the 7 programs, I had the following #s

of versions of my PS: 13, 10, 14, 8, 6, 6, 7, in order by submission date. So, you should plan on being serious about writing your PS and revising it carefully! 64 revisions of my personal statement may seem like a lot of work, but why would I want to be lazy and take chances with the graduate applications? I was accepted into my first choice program (I only had 1 rejection - from my second choice program), which is ranked #1 in the country. The chair of at least one department told me I was the best candidate, and many faculty remember reading my personal statement. Am I really that great a candidate? Well, I was fortunate to have great work experience, but I also owe this book a lot of credit in helping me communicate some of the insights I gained during my years of working. I strongly recommend this book. It's a bargain and its advice is invaluable. If you're going to spend the time and money to go to grad school, why not submit the best application you can? As for specific comments on the book: I think one thing many may overlook is the fact the book covers a lot beyond just essays.

First, let me state this: I followed the advice in this book and for it, I was accepted to graduate school. I was accepted to one MS program, and had the impression that an additional MS program and a PhD program were interested in me, but couldn't offer acceptance for lack of financial support (both were public schools that lost a lot of funding in the recession). There are a few short requisite sections on things relating to graduate school: why you should (or shouldn't) go, how the application process works, etc. These are simply to provide framework for how you'll write your essay. They aren't authoritative on such, and as a result, are somewhat lacking. That's ok though, since that's also not the book's mission. For a more complete look at the entire admissions process, I recommend *Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D.* with gusto. Then the actual essay section. It comes in two sections: advice and examples. The advice section is extremely good. It tells you how to structure an essay. How to develop and stick to a theme. How to address something on your record which may be problematic. And it also covers a large number of "Don't do this!" items. This part was crucial in helping me craft a personal statement. For me, the advice was crucial. I had a crappy undergraduate GPA, but good experiences and great GRE scores. The advice in this book really helped me to develop my strengths and use them to not only outshine my weak GPA, but even to mitigate it. Also, for reasons lost on me, this book is not available from (as a seller).

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