HOW TO APPLY TO GRAD SCHOOL

at Auburn University

Dr. George Flowers
Dean of the Graduate School

AUBURN
GRADUATE SCHOOL

TOP 50 UNIVERSITY

U.S. News & World Report ranks Auburn among the top 50 public universities nationwide.

2022

ABOUT US

- Auburn is a comprehensive land grant university offering graduate degree programs in a wide variety of academic disciplines.

- There are currently 33,000 students (5,179 graduate students + 1,000 professional students) at AU from the United States and more than 91 countries around the world.

- We seek to provide an exceptional educational experience that prepares our students for exciting and rewarding careers.

Research

HANDS-ON ADVANTAGE:
Students interested in graduate research are able to work on a faculty member's research team. Students are invited to present their scholarly results and discoveries at the annual Student Research Symposium.

R1

RESEARCH ACTIVITY:
Auburn, an R1 institution with "very high research activity" (The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education), is among the nation's top doctoral universities.

PROBLEM SOLVERS:
Interdisciplinary research teams from across campus are focused on solving real-world problems, including rural housing affordability and health disparities, environmental health, and a number of metabolic and neurological diseases.

REASONS TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

- To become a researcher or a scholar in a specialized discipline.

- Make yourself stand out in the job market.

- Explore or pursue professions or vocations that require a graduate degree or certification.

- To advance within a particular field of interest.

- Prepare for long-term promotion and career advancement.

95%
of students say they would go to graduate school at Auburn again.

233,000
Alumni Worldwide

97%
of recent graduates feel their Auburn education has enhanced their opportunity for future advancement.

DECIDING *WHERE* TO APPLY TO GRAD SCHOOL

RESEARCH & GATHER INFORMATION:

- Search online for universities offering your desired program

- Get recommendations from current faculty, alumni, industry & networking contacts on the top schools/researchers in this field

- Visit those schools' websites, read everything pertaining to your interests, follow relevant links

CONTACT FACULTY/PROGRAMS:

- Look at faculty research…match your interests? Reach out to them.

- Contact programs/faculty directly to get detailed information (e.g., financial assistance, and application requirements, deadlines, etc.) that is *NOT* listed on their website

VISIT PROSPECTIVE SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE

CONTACT SCHOOLS TO ARRANGE A VISIT

- Confirm date, time, and meeting location - building & room number
- Plan for parking

MEET WITH FACULTY

- Arrive early!
- Bring a list of prepared questions after thoroughly reading the website

MEET WITH CURRENT STUDENTS

- Ask about student/campus life
- Sit in on a class if possible
- Ask them about student organizations and community supports

CONTACT PROSPECTIVE SCHOOLS

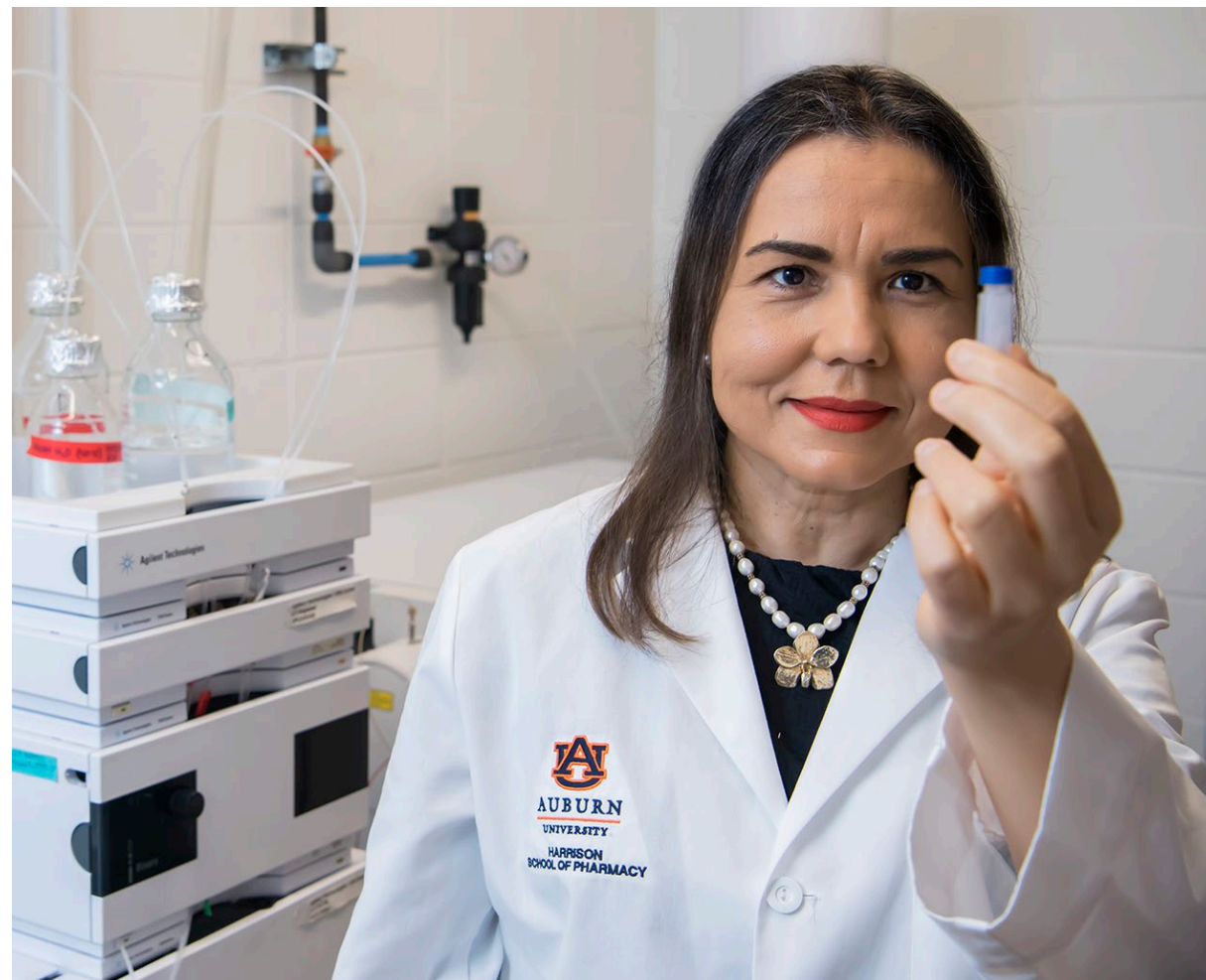## GRADUATE PROGRAM OFFICER (GPO)

- Email is best option to contact
- Introduce yourself concisely (~1-2 sentences)
- Briefly summarize your qualifications and interests (5-7 sentences total)

READ THEIR WEBSITE IN ADVANCE

- Be mindful of application deadlines and requirements
- Entrance exam/GRE scores, if required by program
- Interviews, if required by program

SET UP A CALL/VISIT

- Set up a phone/Zoom conversation; suggest a few dates/times.
- Discuss the program & your interests
- Be sure to mention if you are interested in a particular faculty's research or scholarship

NARROW IT DOWN & EVALUATE

EVALUATE:

- Talk to professors, current students, alumni
- Program ranking
- Admission requirements
- Facilities
- Assistantships
- Required courses
- External factors (location, campus life)

CONTACT FACULTY/PROGRAMS:

- Set up a campus visit with the top contenders to meet with the faculty/program
- Take a campus tour
  - Can be virtual tours and/or Zoom meetings

PREPARE FOR YOUR APPLICATIONS

GET ORGANIZED

- Be sure you meet requirements and deadlines of the program

- Create a timeline for the schools to which you are applying

- Create a calendar (paper or digital) or Excel worksheet to keep track of it all

STUDY & TAKE TESTS

- the GRE/GMAT or any other required entrance exams with enough time for scores to be received by the application deadline

AU GRADUATE SCHOOL DOMESTIC ADMISSIONS STAFF

Theresa Morgan
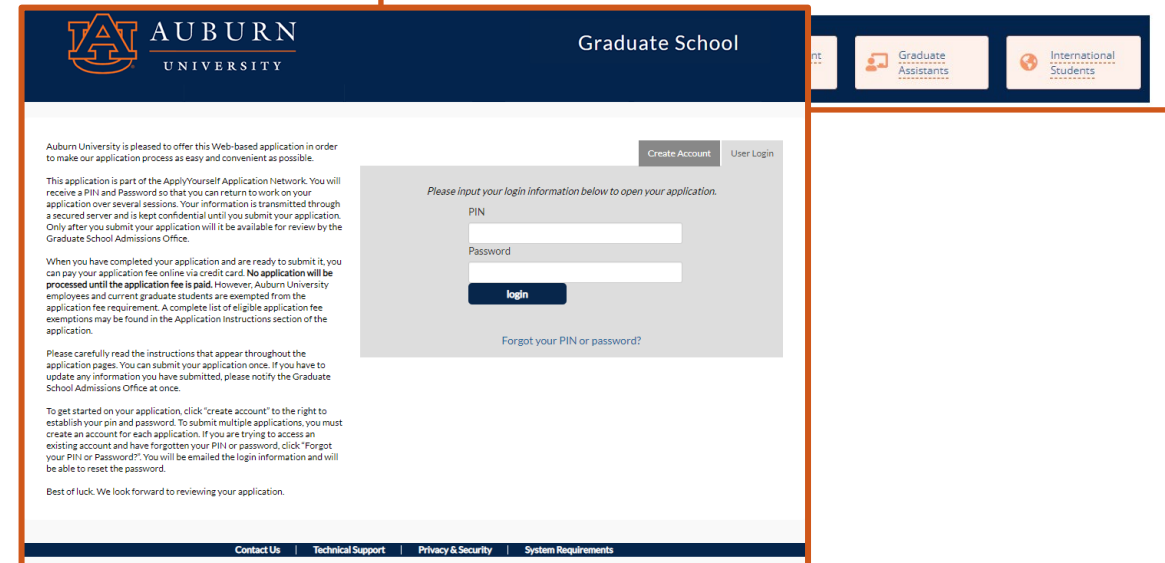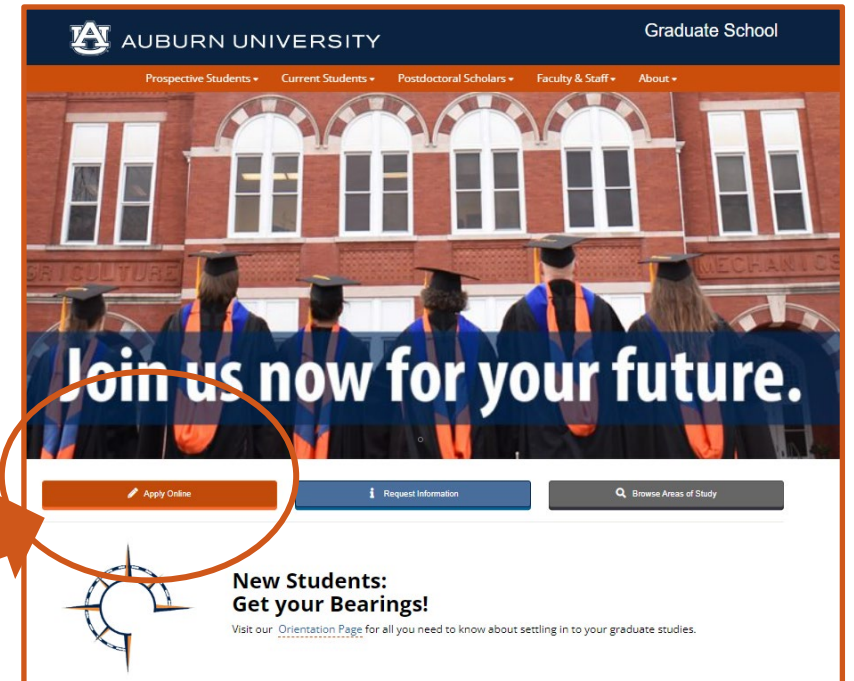Director of Admissions
morgatk@auburn.edu

Justin Gilbert
Domestic Admissions
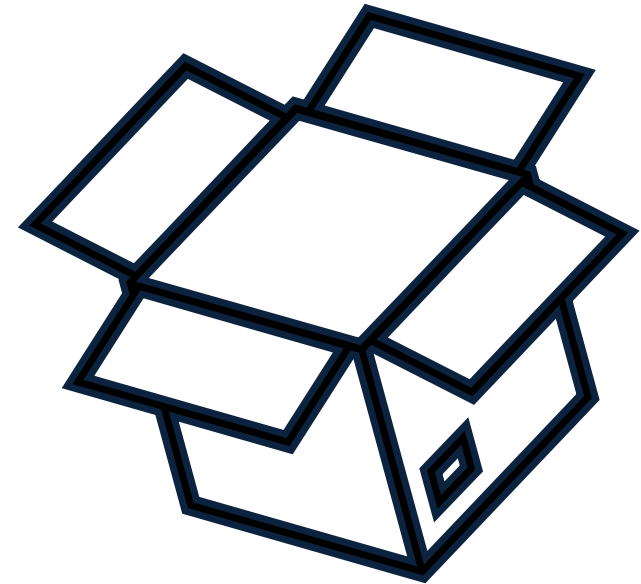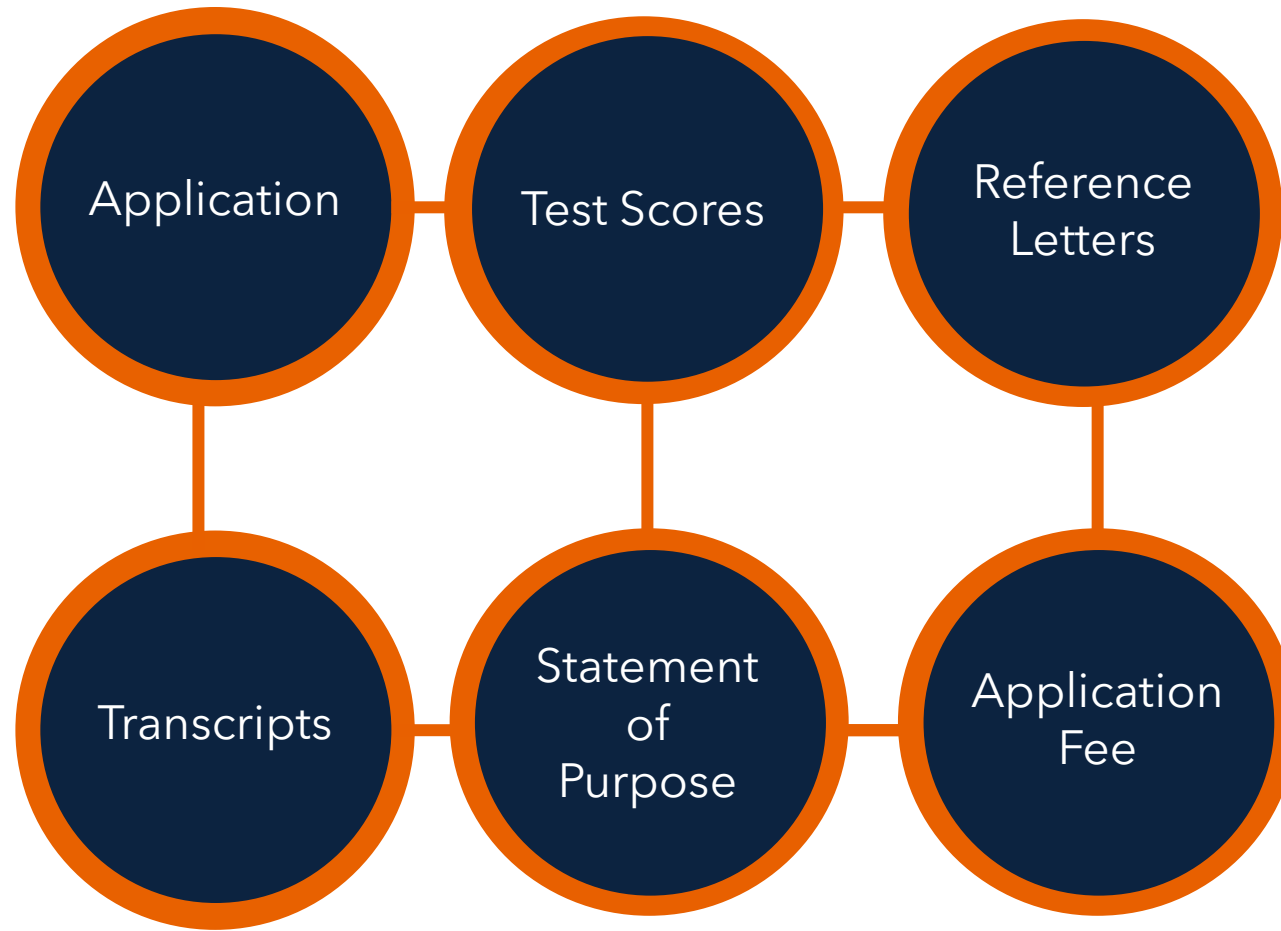gilbeju@auburn.edu

Ashley Ray
Residency & Applications
amr0148@auburn.edu

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL

- Start your application online by creating a username and password.

- Write down or let your browser save your login.

- Work on the application step-by-step, saving as you go.

- You can come back later to finish.

- Once you pay the application fee and submit, you can no longer edit the application.

THE APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application

Test Scores

Reference Letters

Transcripts

Statement of Purpose

Application Fee

APPLICATION & TRANSCRIPTS

Application

- Demographic data, such as mailing address and email
- List of schools you have attended, degrees or anticipated degrees
- Self report test scores, GPA, etc.

Transcripts

- Upload an unofficial copy (PDF) into the application portal
- This can usually be found through your student portal at your current institution
- Final and official transcripts sent from all previously attended institutions (or the national clearing house), if recommended for admission

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE/INTENT

KNOW YOURSELF

- What motivates you?

- Discuss the points in your life when you made certain decisions and why.

- Discuss the cultural, financial, educational or other experiences leading you to pursue a graduate degree.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

- Discuss your intentions for graduate study, and how that might fit in department.

- Carefully address any requirements, prompts, or specific info to tailor the essay to the individual program and/or school.

KNOW YOUR REASONS

- Be explicit in the reasons why you chose the program, how you can bring quality to the program, and how the program can help you achieve your goals.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/REFERENCES

HOW MANY

- Most applications require 3 references.
- Pro-tip: ask 4 people in case one is delayed.
- Select at least one faculty member, or all three.
- Select an employer if the position was academic or research-based and relevant to your field of intended graduate study.

WHO TO ASK

- Faculty who can assess your ability to do advanced academic work, your initiative, motivations, goals, and curiosity in class.
- Select references who know you well and who can comment on your potential as a researcher and scholar.
- Do **NOT** ask family, friends, or church/community members.

WHEN & WHERE TO SUBMIT

- Provide your references/letter writer with details on what you're applying for plus your resume ***well in advance***.
- Let them know to expect an email notification from an online application system – and check spam folders just in case.
- Give them a due date that is earlier than you actually need it to be submitted.
- Send friendly reminders and a follow-up "thank you."

TEST SCORES AND THE APPLICATION FEE

Test Scores

- GRE/GMAT scores can be self-reported on the application
- Have all official scores sent directly from the testing agency to the graduate school's admissions office

Application Fee

- The application fee is typically the very last item in the application process
- Due via online payment method when you are *finished* and all documents are uploaded
- Input online payment only when you are ready to submit, as you will not be able to edit the application after this
- Application fee waiver can be applied for AL HBCU graduates, active-duty military, and other groups as defined on our website.

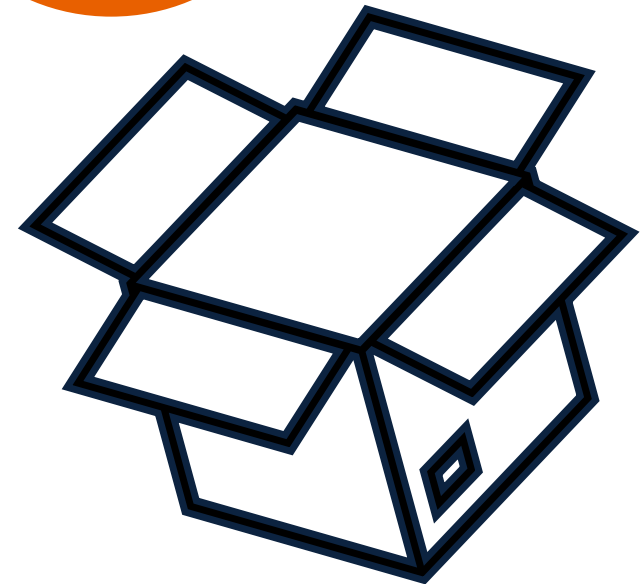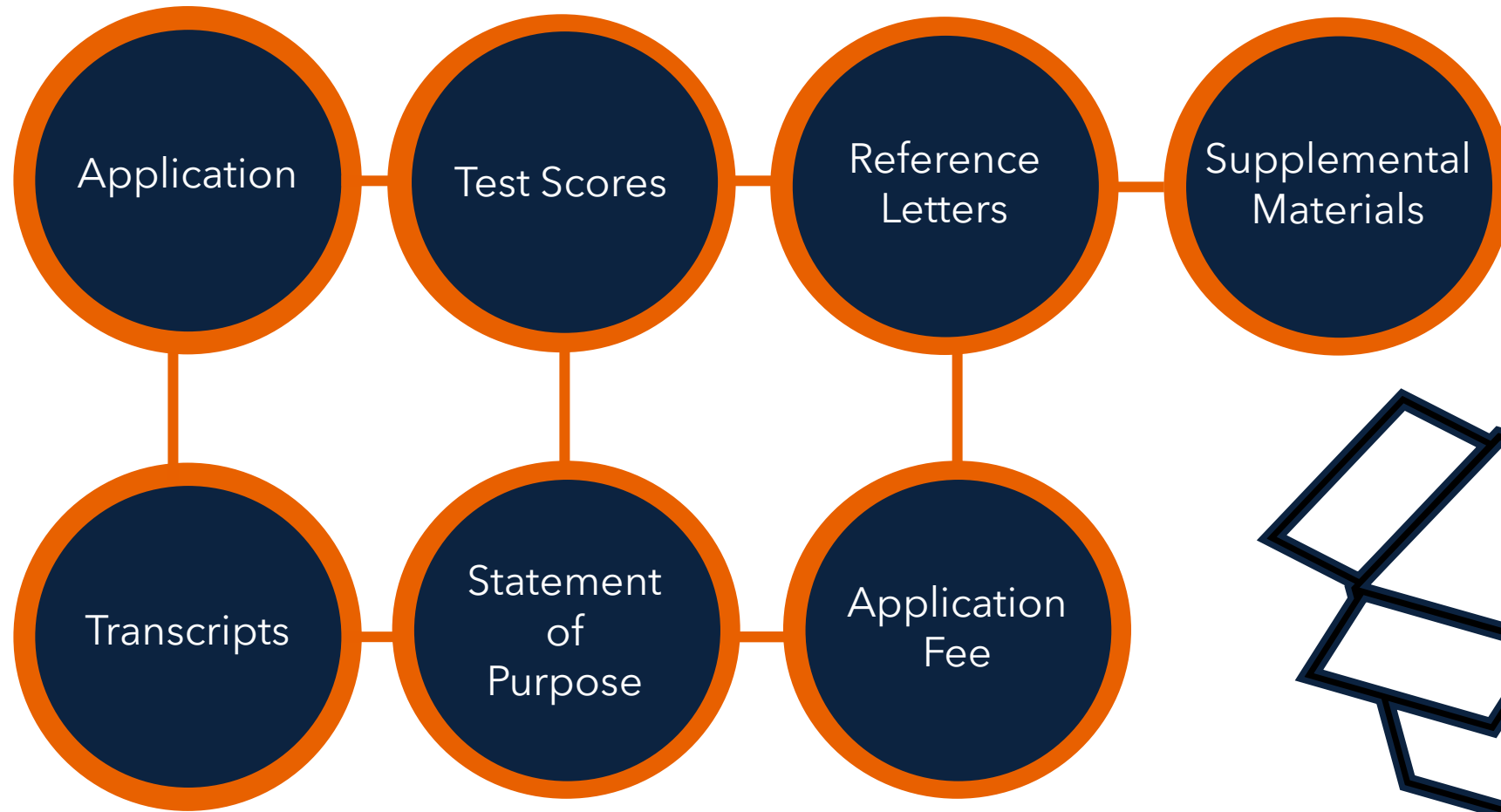# PROGRAM-SPECIFIC AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

WRITING SAMPLE

RESUME/CV

PORTFOLIO OR WORK SAMPLES

THE TOTAL PACKAGE

Application

Test Scores

Reference Letters

Supplemental Materials

Transcripts

Statement of Purpose

Application Fee

LAUnch Your Graduate Journey With Us

www.graduate.auburn.edu

@augraduateschool

@AUGraduateSchool

@AUGradSchool