GRADUATE SCHOOL
Furthering your career goals

Considering Graduate School? Before starting your application, consider some of these questions and talk with professors, academic and career advisors, professionals in the field, and current graduate students.

Why are you interested in going to graduate school?

What are your career goals?

How will an advanced degree help you attain these goals? Is an advanced degree required?

Do you have the academic stamina to continue your education or do you need time off?

Do you possess the grades and test scores necessary for admittance into the program of your choice? (Most graduate programs will look for a minimum GPA of 3.0)

Will full-time work experience enhance your candidacy for graduate school admittance?

Don’t go to graduate school simply because...

+ you don’t know what you want to do for a career
+ you are avoiding the job search
+ your parents say you need to go
+ you want a way to defer student loan payments
+ you are unhappy with a current job
Choosing a Program

Now that you’ve decided that graduate school is the next step for you, it’s time to begin looking for programs. Your professors and advisors are great resources. Also, try looking at graduate school directories and websites to explore programs.

+ Petersons.com
+ GraduateGuide.com
+ GradSchools.com
+ US News and World Report ranking list
+ Professional associations in your field

Some industries prefer graduates from accredited programs, so be sure to check on hiring practices in your industry before choosing programs.

Application Process

Financial Aid

Opportunities for financing your graduate school education vary greatly, depending on the program and the field of study. While working on your application materials for graduate school, you should be asking the specific programs about potential merit-based scholarships, graduate student loan programs, and graduate assistantships, which include research, teaching, and administrative positions. Sites such as U.S. News and Petersons have additional information on types of aid and how to finance your graduate school education. Be sure to ask the programs you plan to attend about options for paying for graduate school.

Application Form

Test Scores. Different fields require different tests. Give yourself several months to prepare. The GRE is the most common exam for graduate school; for specific information visit ETS.org

Official Transcript

Recommendation Letters. It is vital that you get to know your professors and other supervisors well. You will need approximately three letters of recommendation. Give recommenders at least a month to write the letters. Provide them with your resume, a statement of your experience and goals, any necessary forms, and a stamped, addressed envelope (if necessary).

Personal Statement. Visit Writing Tutorial Services, the Career Development Center, Health Professions and Prelaw Center, Walter Center for Career Achievement, and your professors/academic advisors for help composing your personal statement.

Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)