

Is Grad School Right for you?

Should I go to graduate school?

Attending graduate school should be a well thought out decision. The work load is heavy, the programs are focused, and the cost can be high for a good program!

Think about grad school if:

- You're on a career path that requires a master's degree like Social Work, Pharmacy, Mental Health Counseling, Teaching, Biochemist, Biophysicist, Veterinarian, Physical Therapist, etc.
- You know exactly what career path you want, and a clear understanding of what you would want out of a graduate program and curriculum.
- You're willing to invest the money.

Don't apply to grad school if:

- You're still exploring your career path.
- You think having a master's degree will guarantee you a job in a field where a master's degree is optional.
- You're already concerned at paying back your undergraduate loans.
- You felt overwhelmed by your coursework in college, and just got by in grades in your core classes.

Go Straight to Graduate School after college graduation

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're already used to studying and writing papers. • You may not have the same financial worries like a mortgage and family at this point in your life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may already have a good amount of debt, and taking on more could be difficult. • Without relevant work experience you may not be able to apply it to real life work experiences which can make the material less useful.

Get Work Experience before going to Graduate School

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior work experience can give you a deeper understanding of your work and provide deeper career goal clarification. • You may be more competitive in the graduate school application process with some work experience to add to the class dynamic. • Your employer may reimburse your tuition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you plan to attend graduate school full-time, you may find it hard to live on a student budget again since you will only be able to work part-time while on a full-time class schedule.

Still Unsure?

- Attend your schools graduate school fair, some of these are virtual fairs so you can attend from your own home.
- Contact a graduate admissions office to get more information about their program, and ask to sit-in on a class.
- Attend any graduate school information sessions offered by your career services office.