

Graduate School In Your Plan?

Seniors who are considering graduate or professional school may have to answer several questions to make a decision:

1. Is graduate study really worth the time and expense?
2. If I go to graduate school immediately, how will I pay for it?
3. Will I have to borrow a lot of money?
4. Is it better to work for a few years after graduation?
5. How genuinely interested am I in this field?
6. Does my past academic record suggest potential for graduate study?
7. Will my family and friends support my decision?
8. Can I find an appealing job with just a bachelor's degree?
9. Will my long-term career options be brighter with a graduate degree?
10. Can I handle the financial strain of graduate study?

Graduate School Essentials

1- Application:

- **Portfolio of work**
- **Published work or research**
- **Financial Aid Form**

2- Essay or Statement of Purpose

- **Interest and experience in the field**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **Motivation**
- **Creativity**
- **Maturity**
- **Uniqueness**
- **Your personal strength**
- **Remember that this is a sample of your writing skills**

3- Letters of recommendation

- **Personal achievement**
- **Balanced perspective of your academic skills**
- **Relevant professional abilities**

4- Graduate Admission Test

5- Transcripts

Junior Year, Spring

- Research areas of interest, institutions and programs
- Clarify personal objectives
- Talk to advisors about application requirements

- Look into national scholarships; prominent fellowships and awards, such as the Mellon, the Rhodes, the Fulbright, the Elie Wiesel Foundation for the Humanities, and others
- Identify potential letter writers and discuss your plans with them

Junior Year, Summer

- Write for application materials-
- Register and prepare for appropriate graduate admissions test (Register early-the Fall exams are usually the most crowded)
- Review for graduate admissions test by taking sample tests.
- Visit institutions of interest if possible {check in advance to see if key faculty are available}
- Check on application deadlines and rolling admissions

Senior Year, Fall

- Obtain letters of recommendation
- Take graduate admissions examinations
- Mail completed applications, preferably before Thanksgiving; keep in mind that, in general, the earlier your application is received, the earlier you will be considered for financial aid. Register for Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service
- Visit institutions of interest
- Write application essay and ask for faculty critiques

Senior Year, Spring

- Check with all institutions prior to closing date to ensure that all your application materials have arrived
- When accepted, visit institution before making your final decision
- Send deposit to the institution of your choice

Graduate schools have established a variety of procedures for filing applications, so be sure to read each institution's instructions carefully. Some may request you to send all application materials in one package, while others may actually require a two-step application process. This latter system involves a preliminary review of the applicant's credentials prior to admittance into a second screening. Mail all materials at least one week in advance of the deadline. Be sure to contact the admissions office to verify the arrival of your materials.

Making you decision

After making the decision to pursue a graduate education, the next step is finding a school that will accommodate your goals. Consider the following factors:

1. The quality of the program
2. The size of the school and department
3. The location of the school
4. The facilities of the institution
5. The entrance requirement
6. Projected costs
7. The availability of financial aid

Admission requirements usually include the following:

1. Scores of standardized tests required by the university, e.g. the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT
2. Official transcripts
3. Cumulative grade point average
4. Letters of recommendation
5. A completed application form
6. A personal statement of purpose
7. An application fee, which can range between \$25.00 and \$75.00

On-line Resources for Graduate School Information

mba.com (Masters of Business Administration)

ets.org (find a test, practice, and register)

LSAT.org (Law School)

gradsource.com

grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/grad

petersons.com