

Things to Consider Before Attending Graduate School

There are more than 1800 graduate schools in the U.S. today. Finding a good fit between your interests and goals and a graduate program is important to your success in graduate school and beyond. Careful research and self-assessment should be critical elements of your decision making process. **It is critical to remember that graduate school in itself is not a plan. It is a step in the plan.** Many students are not sure what to do after graduation and therefore attend graduate school. Do not make the mistake of attending graduate school because you don't know what else to do. Consider these and many more questions before making the decision to attend graduate school.

Really Consider These Questions Before Pursuing Graduate School:

Why am I planning to attend graduate school?

Am I interested enough in this subject to complete a minimum of two years of intensive study?

What are my educational and career goals?

Is graduate school necessary for me to achieve my goals?

Do I have the skills and commitment necessary to be successful in graduate school?

What do I hope to gain from going to graduate school?

What career opportunities are available for me now and after earning a graduate degree?

Other Suggestions

Take the time to understand what graduate school will demand? Investigate your degree requirements and the time required to complete your advanced degree.

Explore the costs of attending graduate school. Understand what fellowships, scholarships and assistantships are and what you must do to apply for them.

Begin researching potential graduate schools well in advance of application deadlines. You will be investing a lot of time and money into your graduate education, therefore, it is important to really investigate all of your options.

Be sure to utilize resources in Career Services for assistance in the application process.