Is graduate or professional school right for me?

Choosing to attend graduate school as part of your career path is a complex process. First, determine if graduate school is right for you at this time or in the future. If so, ensure you choose the best program for your needs and prepare to submit a strong application.

Things to consider

- What type of graduate or professional program do you want to pursue?
- How do you envision that this program will help you progress in your professional goals?
- How do you envision that this program will help you progress in your personal or educational goals?
- When would you like to start a graduate program?
- What are the pros and cons of starting a graduate program right after finishing your undergraduate degree versus applying after obtaining professional experience?

I’m ready, now what?

Research a range of programs

- Review a list of schools and programs in your academic area. What are the five schools that are the highest on your list? Why have you ranked these programs highly? Does the program need an admissions test? How do programs vary financially?

- What are five more schools that are still attractive, even though they are not your highest priority? What is appealing about these schools?

- Talk to faculty, students or alumni within the program itself that you are interested in. Consider connecting with the admissions office to reach out for contacts to see if the program is a right fit for you.

Consider your strengths as an applicant

- What are your strongest assets as an applicant? Consider factors such as academics, previous employment, professional programs, standardized tests, and extra-curricular involvement.

- What are your potential weaknesses as an applicant?

- How can you improve on these areas of weakness?

Helpful resources

US News Graduate School Rankings
usnews.com/nest-graduate-schools

Petersons Guide to Graduate Schools
petersons.com/graduate-schools

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
fafsa.ed.gov

The Princeton Review Test Prep Courses
princetonreview.com/partner/asu

480-965-2350
career.asu.edu
careerservices@asu.edu