

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION & CAREER SERVICES  
AND THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES PRESENT

# Interested In Going To Graduate School?



## Get Faculty Advice

Discuss which professional paths require which degrees

Discuss programs that might be a good fit based on your interests

Determine what's needed to be a competitive applicant:

- research experience
- professional experience
- independent initiative
- writing samples
- professional presentations

Ask faculty for a recommendation letter

Ask faculty how they prepared for graduate school

## How to Afford It

Some employers offer tuition assistance. Can you work and receive employer assistance?

Can you work part-time while enrolled in graduate studies?

Can you take a loan or receive financial aid, in addition to your undergraduate loans?

Have you looked into scholarships, assistantships, or fellowship programs?

Have you thought about the impact of a graduate degree on your earning potential?

## See a Career Advisor

EE&CS can help you plan, strategize, and practice:

Discuss short & long-term goals

Research working conditions, requirements, and employment prospects in your field

Review national associations in your field of interest which can provide a wealth of information

Practice your graduate school admissions interviews

Critique your resume/CV (curriculum vitae) and personal statement



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# Graduate School Application Timeline

## Guidelines:

Interested in applying to a graduate school once you complete your bachelor's degree? Graduate programs may have different application guidelines & deadlines; please use this timeline as a guide.

Also, visit Peterson's Graduate Program Guides ([www.petersons.com/graduate-schools](http://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools)) for an abundance of information on:

- Searching for graduate schools
- The graduate school timeline
- Preparing a personal statement
- How to choose the right graduate school



## Fall

- Research programs of interest
- Identify program curriculum - does it meet your needs?
- Identify admission requirements
- Talk to your faculty for advice
- Register and prepare for graduate admission tests (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT); take practice tests
- Develop and leverage faculty relationships; request letters of recommendation
- Investigate scholarship opportunities
- Keep up your grades; many schools require at least a 3.0 or higher for competitive programs
- Prepare your CV or resume; visit EE&CS for a professional critique and advising

## Winter

- Budget for application fees and travel expenses
- Visit target schools if possible and create a checklist of each school's deadlines/requirements
- Take or re-take graduate admissions tests. Practice at [www.kaplan.com/our-programs/test-preparation](http://www.kaplan.com/our-programs/test-preparation)
- Prepare personal statement according to the specific guidelines of the school applying to; visit EE&CS for a professional critique
- Determine whether you need to submit other writing samples as part of the application process
- Follow up with faculty for letters of recommendation
- Gather other application documentation, including requesting official transcripts
- Compare costs of programs, including scholarship opportunities
- Complete application forms for targeted schools; pay attention to all deadlines
- Keep copies of everything you send
- Contact schools applied to; confirm receipt of your complete application, transcripts, and test scores file prior to their deadline



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## Spring

- File your income tax and submit for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [www.fafsa.org](http://www.fafsa.org)
- Seek out any other forms of financial aid such as fellowships, assistantships, grants, etc.
- Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov> for details on government loans
- If the school requires an interview, prepare your answers and make a list of questions to ask
- Schedule a mock interview with a career advisor in EE&CS
- Send thank you notes after school interviews

## Summer

- Notify the program you accept as well as those that you decline
  - Finalize your financial aid/scholarships
  - Make arrangements for housing
  - Write thank you letters to those that helped you; particularly those who wrote you a recommendation and let them know where you are headed!
  - Plan to attend new graduate fall orientation program
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***Use this timeline  
as a guide  
when applying for  
graduate programs***



## Peterson's List of Graduate School Jargon

**A.B.D.** - An acronym for "All But Dissertation."

**Academic Master's Degrees** - Master of Arts (M.A.) or Master of Sciences (M.S.) degrees, usually awarded in the traditional arts and humanities, social sciences and sciences disciplines. M.S. degrees are also awarded in technical fields, such as engineering and agriculture.

**Assistantship/Fellowship** - Available at many grad schools and can be teaching or research centered. In exchange for completing some work or research, you may be offered benefits such as reduced tuition, housing, health insurance and a monthly stipend.

**CV (curriculum vitae)** - an academic resume

**GMAT/GRE** - Standardized tests that may be required for admission to a graduate and business schools.

**Juris Doctor degree (J.D. or JD)** - a professional doctorate and first professional graduate degree in law.

**LSAT** - Law School Admission Test, a standardized test required for admission to law school.

**Medical Degree** - an academic, or even technical degree, related to medicine and surgery. At the graduate school level this can include degrees such as Master of Clinical Medicine (MCM), Master of Medical Science (MMSc), and Doctor of Medicine (MD, DM).

**MCAT** - Medical College Admissions Test, a standardized test required for admission to medical school.

**Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)** - This is an advanced degree, beyond the master's level, which requires further course work, as well as several years of original research, culminating in a dissertation.

**Practicum** - Work experience or hands-on portion of a class. For instance, clinical psychology students may spend 8 hours a week seeing clients to fulfill requirements.

**Professional Master's Degree** - Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), or Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.).

**Thesis / Dissertation** - In a nutshell, a thesis is one huge gigantic research paper! A thesis is almost always required if you're pursuing a Ph.D., but some master's programs require them as well. Your thesis is an original and significant contribution to research in your field. The D word is a fancy synonym for "thesis."



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