



Graduate School

Research, Prepare, Succeed!



Considering Grad School?

There are many reasons to pursue a graduate education including:

- The need for an advanced degree to enter your chosen profession
- To increase your marketability
- To advance your career

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you prepared to commit to a career field?
- Have you determined your long-range career and lifestyle goals?
- Will the degree prepare you for a specific occupation or career field?
- Are you comfortable with living the lifestyle of a student for a few more years?
- Is it worth the financial investment?

Since the decision to attend graduate school requires careful planning, start the process early and take advantage of our many resources.

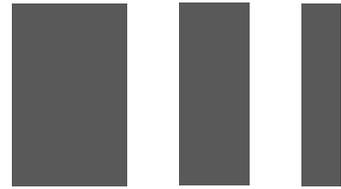
Admission Requirements

Each field has different requirements and schools offering the same type of degree may have different requirements. You will want to find out what criteria are used by the school to evaluate and select students.

Most will require the following items:

- Application form and fees (note application deadlines, as they can vary)
- Essay and goal statement (also called a personal statement)
- Transcripts and graduate admissions tests
- Letters of recommendation
- Admissions interview





Graduate School Admissions Tests

(GRE) - GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION INCLUDES:

- Seven part "general test" that tests you on verbal, quantitative, and analytical abilities as they measure your potential success on a graduate level
- Fourteen part "subject test" that is designed to measure your knowledge of subject matter related to a specific field
- A writing assessment designed to measure your thinking and writing skills.
- For more information on the GRE, go to www.gre.org

(GMAT) - GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ADMISSION TEST ASSESSES:

- The qualifications of applicants to predict your academic performance in the first year of graduate management school.
- There are 9 timed sections and two 3 minute essays to write.
- For more information on the GMAT, start at www.gmat.org

(LSAT) - LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST MEASURES:

- Reading and verbal reasoning skills
- Many law schools require that the LSAT be taken by December, nine months before law school begins.
- The Law School Admissions Council recommends taking the test earlier - 15 months to a year before law school begins.
- Information on the LSAT is available at www.lsats.org

(MCAT) - MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST TESTS:

- A wide range of skills, including problem solving, critic thinking, and writing.
- The aspiring student's knowledge of science concepts and principles that are prerequisites to the study of medicine.
- Scores are given in verbal reasoning, physical sciences, a writing sample, and biological sciences.
- Almost all U.S. medical schools require an MCAT before admission.
- More information on the MCAT is available at www.aamc.org



Writing a “Personal Statement”

The basics:

- 1 – 2 pages
- Well organized and concisely written essay with a thesis statement.
- Showcases strong writing skills.
- Use strong, concrete examples from your various life experiences.
- Showcase your passion and interests.
- Draw the reader in from the very start—get their attention!

What topics should you include?

- Academic and career goals (Immediate and long-term) and how graduate education can help meet them.
- Reason and level of preparation for pursuing graduate level studies.
- Level of knowledge and interest in the academic program you are applying to, as well as the college or university. (this may mean you will need to do some research)
- Educational, work/volunteer, and research background as it relates to your academic and career goals.
- Current trends or issues facing your field of study and/or industry of interest.
- Unique personal attributes that showcase what you can add to the field and/or industry.
- Discuss your level of motivation and capacity to succeed in a graduate program.

What should you avoid?

- Grammatical and spelling errors (you MUST proofread!)
- Writing an autobiography/life story.
- Distasteful or potentially offensive humor.
- Weak statements or examples while describing your experiences
- Information that is not true.
- Attempts to impress the reader with vocabulary.
- Weak excuses for poor GPA or test scores.

