Preparing for Graduate School

Reasons why graduate school is a good choice

- You can build a better world. Here at WSU graduate students work closely with world-renown faculty on some pretty amazing research projects. Learn more at research.wsu.edu

- Your chance for financial success grows exponentially with a graduate degree. Master's graduates average more than $67,000 a year compared to bachelor's graduates at about $56,000 per year. Doctoral graduates earn about $92,000 a year and professional degrees can earn you about $100,000 per year.

- Washington state has a shortage of people with graduate degrees. Your chance of getting a high-paying job with your degree is pretty good.

- Many WSU graduate students get teaching, research, or graduate assistantships, and some students graduate from WSU with no debt.

Requirements and applying

- Admission to WSU Graduate School is a joint decision between the Dean of the Graduate School and your prospective department or college. To find out about the requirements and the application process for graduate school, visit gradschool.wsu.edu/apply.
  - Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree and a cumulative 3.0 GPA or a B average.
  - Deadlines for applications vary with departments. Contact your department to find out your program's deadline. The Graduate School deadlines are January 10 for fall semester and July 1 for spring semester.
  - Degree programs: to find out specifics about your degree program, visit gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees. Click on your program to find out more details.
    - Application fee: $75

Jessica Higginbotham is a doctoral student in neuroscience at WSU, studying the neural mechanisms underlying drug-related memories.

Contact Us:

Graduate School
Washington State University
French Administration Building, Room 324
Pullman, WA 99164-1030
Gradschool.wsu.edu
509-335-6424
gradsch@wsu.edu
Steps to Success
On Your Journey Towards Graduate School

Freshman Year - Self Discovery

• Explore your interests and abilities. Talk to and visit your academic support system: advisors, counselors, professors, and graduate students
• Develop effective study habits and skills
• Attend workshops, tutorials, guest speakers and campus presentations
• Establish a solid G.P.A.-- at least a 3.0

Sophomore Year - Assessing Options

• Define and establish your personal, life, and career goals (this is a lifelong process)
• Begin to make contacts in your chosen career area
• Identify potential mentoring relationships with professors and graduate students
• Conduct independent research with a professor
• Attend graduate and professional school fairs and research presentations
• Begin looking for summer research internships at various universities
• Apply for McNair Achievement Program

Junior Year - Committing and Preparing

• Continue to define and re-establish personal, life and career goals
• Strengthen mentoring relationships. Discuss interests with professors and others
• Explore and investigate different types of graduate programs. Visit campuses and departments when possible
• Explore and investigate standardized tests, test dates and fees
• Continue to attend graduate and professional school fairs and research presentations
• Participate in a summer research internship/experience

Senior Year - Applying and Selecting

• Take standardized test (GRE, MCAT, LSAT, etc)
• Apply early. Electronic applications are the norm for most programs and universities. Inquire about deadlines and other important dates.
• Stay organized! Applying to graduate programs is a time and labor intensive activity. Be sure to set up an organizing system (file box) to keep all the pieces of each application together.
• Initiate and maintain contact with programs to ensure your application is complete.
• Explore and investigate funding opportunities: teaching, research, and graduate assistantships, scholarships, grants, etc.
• Apply for financial aid (FAFSA) and other external funding opportunities