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

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Contact Us:

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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