Preparing for Graduate School

Why graduate school is a good choice

• You can build a better world. Here at WSU, graduate students collaborate with expert faculty on some life-changing 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 when compared to bachelor’s graduates, 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 needs employees with graduate degrees. You chance of securing a satisfying and good-paying job increase with a degree.

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

Requirements and admission

• 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 B average.

  • Deadlines for applications vary. 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 specifics about your degree program, visit gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees. Click on your program for 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 speaker events and campus presentations.
• Establish a solid GPA-- at least 3.0.

Sophomore Year - Assessing Options

• Define and establish your personal, life, and career goals (a lifelong process).
• 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.
• Look for summer research internships at various universities.
• Apply for McNair Achievement Program.

Junior Year - Committing and Preparing

• Continue to define and reestablish personal, life and career goals.
• Strengthen mentoring relationships. Discuss interests with professors and others.
• Investigate different types of graduate programs. Visit campuses and departments if 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. Ask about deadlines and other important dates.
• Stay organized. Applying to graduate programs is time consuming and labor intensive. 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.