



Is Grad School Right For Me?

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Is Grad School Right For Me?

Today

- Graduate school overview
- To go or not to go?
- Exploring your path

Graduate & Professional School Virtual Fair

- Thursday 10/15 11am-2pm on Handshake, unm.joinhandshake.com
- Register for the fair
- Sign up for sessions!
- Career Services will be there to help

What is graduate
school?

Graduate School

Professional master's degrees (MBA, MFA, MSW) prepare graduates to work in a specific profession. Also called a **terminal master's degree**.

Professional doctorates (JD, MD) prepare graduates to work in a specific profession.

Research master's degrees (MA, MS) prepare graduates to conduct scholarship. Typically earned as a step towards completing a doctorate.

Research doctorates (PhD) prepare graduates to lead high-level scholarship.

What are some reasons to go to grad school?

Possible Benefits of Grad School

Required for certain professions

Practice at a higher level

Earn more money

Do research

Gain skills and experience

Immerse yourself in your field

What are some
reasons *not* to go to
grad school?

Possible Downsides of Grad School

Potentially very expensive

Time consuming

Difficult

Opportunity costs

Are there other ways to reach your goals?

So how do you figure
it out?

Exploring Your Path

Get experience!

Talk to people

Do research

Come to Career Services



Get Experience

The single most important thing you can do is get experience outside the classroom

Test drive the field

- The only way to really know whether it's a good fit for you

Become a competitive candidate

- “Other” experience counts for about 50% of a typical application

Build relationships

Get Experience

Jobs

Internships

Volunteer work

Research

Shadowing

Get Experience

Consider joining a program

- McNair Scholars Program
- El Puente Research Fellowship
- Undergraduate Pipeline Network
- AmeriCorps
- Peace Corps
- And many more!

Programs provide a structured experience designed to help you build skills

Talk to People

Informational interviews, formal or informal

- Professors, mentors, and supervisors
- Professionals in the field

Invaluable insights and advice

Build relationships

Do Research

Occupational Outlook Handbook, [bls.gov/ooh](https://www.bls.gov/ooh)

O*NET Online, [onetonline.org](https://www.onetonline.org)

Career Services

Career counseling

- Assessments
- Exploration
- Accountability

Support to reach your goals

- Information and strategy
- Resume or CV
- Application essays
- Interview prep

Free services for alumni



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Career Services

505-277-2531 ▪ onlinecareerservices@unm.edu

career.unm.edu ▪ unm.joinhandshake.com