**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**Timing & Format**While some go directly on to graduate school, others take time off first. They may wish to clarify their focus or to achieve other goals. The choice is yours.

There are many options for graduate study -- full-time, part-time, and distance programs. You’ll also find options for support including fellowships, assistantships, and employer support through tuition reimbursement programs.

**Making the decision**

Consult faculty: [academic advisor](http://www.ncsu.edu/advising_central/advisers.html), [pre-professional advisor](http://www.ncsu.edu/majors-careers/preprof_grad/preprof_details.php), [graduate program director](http://www.grad.ncsu.edu/Labels/dgplist.htm).

Ask employers about career options with a graduate degree.

Review [career information](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/students/careerinformation.php) to determine if an advanced degree is required.

Research programs: [Princeton Review](http://www.princetonreview.com/graduate-schools-programs.aspx?uidbadge=%07) / [US News & World Report](http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools).

Talk with current graduate students.

Meet with your [career counselor](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/quicklinks/staff.php).

**Beginning the application process**

[Application timeline](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/students/explore/timeline.php)

[Graduate school planner (Peterson's)](http://www.petersons.com/graduate_home.asp?path=gr.home)

[Admissions tests](http://www.jobweb.com/studentarticles.aspx?id=816)

[Personal statements](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/students/explore/statements.php)