

List of Questions about Graduate Studies

Who should consider graduate school?

What questions should I ask myself to figure out if grad school is a good choice for me?

Am I interested in more coursework, research, or a combination of the two?

How is my undergraduate degree perceived in the workforce?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of going to grad school?

What types of degrees are out there, and what are the differences between them?

What roles do people with the different degrees play?

What is the timeline of the process of applying to graduate school, including exams (GRE), essays, recommendations, applications, visits, final decisions?

How does grad school factor into summer plans between junior and senior years?

How do I go about finding a good program for me?

What types of grad programs are most helpful for academia, industry, gov. lab, and other sectors?

What are some characteristics of a successful graduate student, especially a doctoral candidate?

What are advantages and disadvantages of studying in the United States vs. abroad?

How might I finance graduate school (stipend, fellowship, research assistantship)?

What are industry, grad school, government, and other sectors like?

What are advantages and disadvantages of staying at my current institution for a master's and/or a Ph.D.?

How do I apply for my current institution's graduate programs?

Should I take time off between undergrad and grad? Between a masters and a Ph.D.?

What doors are opened and what doors are closed when one holds a Masters degree or a PhD in a field?

What online and in-person resources are available to help me figure this out?

Should I do a senior honors thesis if I'm considering graduate school?

If any, what other types of post-baccalaureate academic programs are available that aren't graduate school?

Who should take Fundamentals of Engineering and the Professional Engineer exam, and when?

What is the value of knowing one specific subject very deeply?

How can I balance breadth and depth of study?

How does pursuing a graduate degree affect family and personal life?

What courses should I be sure to take if I am considering graduate school?

I am worried that I will become specialized in an area that in the near future might be obsolete or found to be incorrect – is it still worth learning about and researching?

What is a postdoc?

