


## Is Graduate School Right For Me?

 Written and reviewed by Seasoned Match Mentors

When considering whether to attend graduate school, it is wise to consider your reasons for continuing education. Do your reasons justify pursuing an advanced degree? Graduate school requires a significant investment of time and money. Also, to be considered is the loss of wages by leaving the workforce. Students should be clear on their purpose for enrolling in graduate school and whether the investment will be worth it. Depending on your field of study, would you benefit from time in a job before graduate school to help develop skill and expertise?

### **Mentee Objective covered**

What are your career goals and skills you hope to develop, and how can grad school help? Do most people in your desired career field have graduate degrees? Are there other opportunities (work experience, gap year, volunteer, etc.) you would like to explore before committing to more education?

### **Goals / Objectives of this Module**

What are the benefits of going to grad school immediately after graduating compared to the benefits of waiting?

### **LESSON / MODULE TOPIC COVERED**

Consider if graduate school right after college is appropriate for you. Is taking time off from your education to get work experience and perhaps travel a better option. Review your goals carefully and then work out how to best achieve them. Graduate school will be challenging, a marathon not a sprint. Advantages of graduate school are considered to be increased wages, competitive advantage and more job opportunities.

Here are six things you should consider that will help you work through a decision.

1. Know your goals
2. Understand how graduate school differs from college
3. Know what make a successful graduate school student
4. Remember that finances matter
5. Plan ahead
6. Know that there are pros and cons to both decisions

The right time to go to graduate school is when you know you can be a successful graduate student. Being an effective planner and initiative taker with the maturity and stamina to complete a long project on your own will be the right time for graduate studies. If not ready, you may be in the future. In the meantime, prepare for your future by keeping an eye on graduate programs and deadlines. Think about where you want to go and how you're going to get there. Age will not impact the pursuit of graduate studies.

### **Lesson Notes**

Discussions on continuing education may come up often. There are many things to consider in making plans for additional education. Plan accordingly and make sure to cover all the probabilities.



**Post Lesson and Pre-Lesson Assignments**

Decisions to continue your education will be ongoing throughout your career. When and how you choose to move forward takes planning well in advance.

**SOURCES**

1. Kowarski, I; Clayborn, C, "Should You Go to Graduate School" U.S. News and World Report, web 9 July 2024, <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/why-go-to-graduate-school-the-best-and-worst-reasons>
2. "Should You Go to Graduate School Right After Undergrad?" The Princeton Review, web 2024, <https://www.princetonreview.com/grad-school-advice/should-you-go-to-grad-school-right-after-undergrad>
3. Shulsinger, T., "Should I Go to Grad School: 4 Questions To Consider", Northeastern University Graduate Program, web 25 June 2024, <https://graduate.northeastern.edu/resources/should-i-go-to-grad-school/>

