

Is Grad School For You?

Immediately

- Maintain highest GPA possible.
- Make sure you have gained experience in the field you want to pursue in graduate school.
- Talk to current faculty members to explore options and access their expertise.

Make a list of what you're looking for in a graduate program and what you'd like to do with a master's or doctoral degree

- Remember that attending graduate school should lead you toward your ultimate career goal.
- Determine which degree will be most beneficial for you in your career growth.
- If you are having trouble narrowing down your graduate school options, make an appointment with a career counselor at Career Services located on the 5th floor of the Holland Building.

Research and compare your options

- Create a system by which to compare schools and track the application requirements and process
- Time commitment (e.g. 2 year program vs. 4 year program)
- Part-time vs. full-time programs
- Private vs. public institutions
- Entrance requirements including undergraduate prerequisites for specific programs
- Program approaches/specializations
- Faculty and teaching methods
- Program reputation/accreditation
- Placement success of program graduates
- Tuition costs and financial aid availability
- Housing/living expenses

Possible Research Criteria

- What have faculty members published recently? (Compare professors' interests to your own)
- How many faculty members does the department have? (You are checking for faculty to student ratio)
- What characteristics distinguish this program from others in the same field?
- What is the relative importance of admissions test scores, undergraduate grades, recommendations, internships, and research? Is this a safety, mid-range, or reach school for me?
- Does the department prefer applicants immediately out of undergraduate programs or do they prefer some work experience?
- What types of financial aid are offered? Are assistantships or fellowships available? What types?

Use your research to choose 5-10 program possibilities, and narrow your list

- Consult with your professors, DSU Alumni, and professionals in the field to discuss program highlights and their experiences in graduate school.
- Plan campus visits, and schedule meetings with program faculty members or current students who can answer your questions.