3 Reasons to go to graduate school
1. You want to acquire specialized knowledge in a specific area of study
2. The occupation you pursue requires additional education beyond a bachelor’s degree
3. For advancement within your career field

Post baccalaureate options

**Professional School**
- Includes dental, medical, veterinarian, law, paralegal, and business schools
- Many professional schools do not require applicants to have a specific undergraduate degree; however, specific undergraduate courses may provide a beneficial background
- Professional schools often heavily evaluate applicants according to responses to application essay questions and/or a personal statement due to an interest in responses to ethical/philosophical and scenario questions
- Professional schools are interested in an applicant’s extracurricular activities such as campus involvement, leadership, work experience, volunteer work, and test scores such as LSAT or MCAT
- More students go directly into professional schools immediately following undergraduate education than graduate school

**Graduate School**
- Graduate school constitutes an advanced program of study focused on a particular academic discipline or a specific profession
- Graduate schools are interested in an applicant’s extracurricular activities such as campus involvement, leadership, work experience, volunteer work, and results of standardized tests such as GRE or GMAT
- Graduate degrees may or may not increase salaries depending on the academic area
- Many students take time off between undergraduate and graduate studies in order to acquire work experience and further confirm their specialty area of choice

Immediate entry vs. delayed entry
Some undergraduate students struggle when faced with the decision to enter straight into graduate school or obtain real work experience before pursuing a graduate degree. There is no set answer. To help make your decision, consider the following questions:

- Are you relatively sure of your career goals? Or, is it a possibility that you could change your mind after gaining practical experience in the “world of work?”
- Do you have ambiguous career goals? Would some time in the “world of work” help clarify those hazy career goals?
- How much will your job and salary prospects be enhanced by a graduate degree? Investigate, it varies by industry!
- Is a graduate degree mandatory for your chosen career?
- What are the direct and indirect costs of graduate school?
- Is there a possibility a future employer might pay for you to attend graduate school?
- How strong are your test scores and GPA? Would work experience enhance your application by offsetting subpar grades or test scores?
- Would you have difficulty readjusting to student life after a break?
- Do you need a break from education before beginning graduate school?