



Do you want to go to graduate school?

No

Are you sure?
Graduate school is fun!

Yes

Are you currently a...

What should you do to get there?

If you are an *undergraduate or post-bac* student,

- Getting A's in relevant courses
- Getting research or applied experience
- Join professional associations or societies
- Present your research at conferences and/or submit work for publication
- Try to be an teaching assistant (if possible)

If you are an *Master's* student,

- Completing courses with A's
- Focus on research in topic of interest
- Join professional associations or societies
- Present your work at conferences *and* submit work for publication
- Try to get teaching experience (supervised teaching or graduate teaching assistant)
- Get advanced statistical training (if possible)

Things to Remember...

Applying to PhD Programs

- If you want to be a professor, research scientist, or data scientist, a PhD may be for you
- PhD applicants should have a specific research interest
- PhD programs use the mentor system (where applicants apply to work with specific faculty members)
- PhD programs are typically funded
- Application year starts roughly one year before applications are due (See *Road Map* document for more tips)
- Required application materials: Personal Statement, Strong Letters of Recommendation, GRE scores, GPA, and Research Experience (See *Page 2* for more tips)

Applying to MA/MS Programs

- If you want to work on a research team or take position in or outside of academia, a Master's program may be for you
- MA/MS applicants may or may not have a specific research interest
- Not all MA/MS programs require mentors
- MA/MS programs are typically not funded
- Application year starts roughly 9 to 10 months before applications are due
- Required application materials: Personal Statement, Strong Letters of Recommendation, GRE scores, and GPA (See *Page 2* for more tips)

What kind of program are you interested in?

PhD

PhD

MA/MS

Unsure, Need Help!

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Can't decide what to do?

- Consider delaying graduation or taking additional classes after graduation
- Get involved with a research lab for at least a few months (longer is better)
- Consider completing a Master's program before applying to PhD programs

So, what's next for you?

Gap Year Before Applying!

Never mind, just get a job!