Do you want to go to graduate school?

Yes

Are you sure? Graduate school is fun!

No

Are you currently a...

Undergraduate or Post-bac

What kind of program are you interested in?

PhD

PhD

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)

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?

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, GPA, and Research Experience (See Page 2 for more tips)

Things to Remember...
• Consider delaying graduation or taking additional classes after graduation
• Get involved with a research lab for at least a few months (longer is better)

Gap Year Before Applying!

Never mind, just get a job!